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Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

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Awards to celebrate brightest and best in Portobello

BY GEOFF BAKER
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FOR the first time ever the top businesses and people of Portobello are to get their own Oscars – with a glittering new awards night that will honour the brilliant vibrancy and variety of the very best of the area.

The Portobello Awards – which are being supported by the *London Weekly News* – recognise the highest standards among the shops, stalls, artists and community stars of Portobello and Golborne. The awards process will run over the next few weeks, with a lavish winners' ceremony on December 3 at the celebrated Mode nightclub in Acklam Road.

The 'Portobellos' – as they are being dubbed – will go to the top businesses and local personalities as nominated by customers and supporters. Nominations are under way now at booths and 'Portobello polling stations' opening all over W10.

The awards are the brainchild of local businessman Stevie Thomas, who has launched

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■ **ON ME HEAD, JEREMY: The Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn lends his support to the launch of the Football for Unity initiative at the Houses of Parliament earlier this week. Others present included the president of one of the most successful clubs in the world, Atletico Madrid, German Robles Gonzalez, whose club has committed to promoting the Football for Unity concept throughout the world. Football legend Maradona has agreed to be president of Football for Unity in South America.**
Picture: Richard Austin

Maradona and Corbyn join united attack on extremism

BY PHILIP EVANS

MARADONA, arguably the world's greatest football player, has pledged his support for a Kensington-based charity which is committed to eliminating radicalism.

The Argentinian legend has agreed to be an ambassador for Football For Unity, a concept to unite communities through the beautiful game which is winning worldwide acclaim.

The initiative, which has won the support of The Queen, President Obama, the Vatican and Britain's Chief Rabbi, is being promoted by the Unity of Faiths organisation with a football-based programme to stop young people becoming radicalised, turning to terrorism and joining gangs.

The programme, which has already stopped 10 teenagers from joining Isis in Syria, is being backed by the Dean of Westminster and the British leaders of Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh faiths.

House of Commons speaker John Bercow launched Football for Unity on the Speaker's Private Green at the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, attended by London's grassroots football community and

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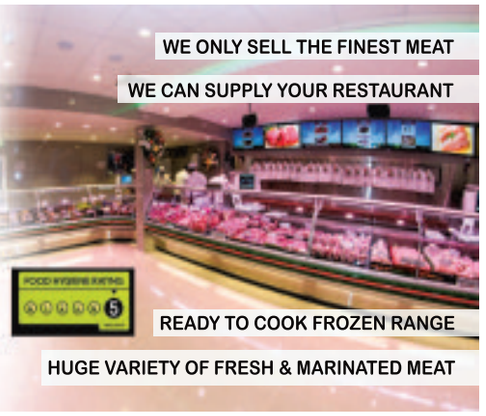

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'FIRST STEPS' INITIATIVE HELPS EXPAND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

More homes for more Londoners

MORE than 52,000 Londoners on modest incomes have moved into new homes all across the capital, as part of Mayor Boris Johnson's First Steps housing scheme.

First Steps targets low and medium income Londoners and is designed to help people purchase a home at a lower cost than buying in the same neighbourhood on the open market. With large deposits being a major problem for many potential buyers, the scheme's deposits start from as little as £5,000, averaging at £13,000, with average household wages of £37,000.

Last week the Mayor visited the new Gallery Court, Fulbourne Road development in Waltham Forest to meet residents who are in the final stages of buying shared ownership homes. The site, a former camera factory, is part funded by the Mayor and developed by Sanctuary Group and includes a mixed tenure of 124 affordable rent, private and shared ownership new properties, starting from £63,750 for a share of a one-bedroom apartment. The 107 affordable properties at the site are targeted at local people on modest incomes.

The development is close to the Waltham Forest Blackhorse Road housing zone, one of the Mayor's 20 designated zones. Mr Johnson announced that areas in Merton and Lambeth have been designated zones as part of his commitment for 20 housing zones across the capital, delivering over 53,000 new homes, and unlocking £21.6 billion in investment.

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

The Mayor also revealed plans for 10 more housing zones to be designated by the end of his term in office. He said: "More than 52,000 Londoners have been able to get on to the housing ladder thanks to the First Steps scheme and I am determined to help even more achieve their dream of owning their own home. Dynamic developments like Gallery Court are testament to this success and demonstrate why I've allocated millions of extra funding for shared ownership.

"The next wave of new housing will be kick-started by my 20 housing zones, which are set to deliver over 50,000 mixed tenure homes at a fast pace. The zones are regenerating huge areas of the city and that's why I am determined to create a further 10, delivering and continuing the investment, opportunity and much needed new housing across the capital."

The Sanctuary Housing Group has developed the new homes on Gallery Court, Fulbourne Road through its appointed contractor with Ardmore Construction. The affordable units consist of 17 affordable rent houses, 35 affordable rent apartments, 13 intermediate rent apartments and 42 shared ownership apartments.

During the regeneration of the development Sanctuary Group prioritised offering training, apprenticeships and employment on the site to local people, particularly encouraging women into roles through the 'Women in Construction' scheme.

Ian McDermott, Chief Operating Officer for Sanctuary Group, said: "Developments like Gallery Court are giving people the opportunity to buy homes they would never be able to afford on the open market. We want to help families fulfil their ambitions of owning their own home. That's why Sanctuary is committed to building 17,000 low cost homes over the next 10 years, including a significant number of shared ownership homes across London."

Having exceeded his manifesto target to help 50,000 people into intermediate homes, the Mayor wants to double the number of shared ownership units built in London by 2020 and again by 2025 to help an estimated 250,000 more Londoners access affordable homes to rent or buy.

Richard Twinn is buying a two- bed shared ownership apartment at Gallery Court. He said: "My partner and I work. We had been looking at buying our first home but the property market here meant that they were beyond our reach. Thanks to shared ownership we are now able to get our first step on the property ladder and we can't wait to move in."

The Waltham Forest Blackhorse Road zone will receive over £44 million for 2,477 new homes (1,881 private with 596 affordable units) – unlocking £1.8 billion in economic development value and creating over 5,000 construction jobs between now and 2025.

Councillor Khevyn Limbajee, Cabinet Member for Housing, Waltham Forest, said, "This development is one of many taking shape across the borough, helping us to achieve our commitment to build thousands of new homes in 2020 – half of which will be affordable."

The Mayor's Housing Zone success builds upon his efforts to free up land for new housing, including the creation of the London Land Commission to identify all public land in London and strengthen its redevelopment alongside new transport infrastructure, the release of 99 per cent of all land held in City Hall's land, and the establishment of the London Housing Bank to provide finance to accelerate the build-out of large sites.

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MAKING HISTORY: Seated in our pictiure is Charles Mackay, Chairman of Opera Holland Park. To his left in the blue suit is James Clutton. To Mr Mackay's right is Cllr Nick Paget Brown, Mike Volpe and Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford. Directly behind Charles is Fiona Campbell, trustee OHP. Between Cllr Paget-Brown and Mike Volpe is Anupam Ganguli, trustee OHP.

Good sign! Stage set for popular opera company to go solo

THIS was the moment when the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council waved a final goodbye to Opera Holland Park as it embarked on a new chapter as an independent charitable company.

OHP must now be self-sufficient and rely solely on sales and sponsorship rather than council subsidy. To help the new company strike out on its own they will receive a final grant of £5million from the council's reserves.

"We are very proud that we created this outstanding cultural institution and wish them every success for the future. Ensuring that OHP continues to be accessible to all is at the heart of the new company's agreement with the council," explained Cllr Tim Coleridge, Cabinet Member for the arts. Our final grant gives them a strong financial foundation in which to flourish and grow and I look forward to enjoying the company's performances for years to come."

At the helm of the newly formed company is Charles Mackay CBE whose past success includes raising the profile and financial health of Historic Royal Palaces (and the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace now run without any public subsidy). As Chairman he has appointed a new board of trustees with a broad range of experience and expertise, including ITV *News at Ten* anchor, Sir Trevor McDonald.

Awards night will honour the very best of Portobello

FROM PAGE 1

the prize night to celebrate the pride of Portobello as part of the events for the 150th anniversary of the Portobello and Golborne Markets.

Dozens of awards will be given to cover all aspects of the spectrum of Portobello life – from best coffee shop and best bartender to the top filmmaker and the personality of the year.

"The aim of the Portobello Awards is to celebrate the very best of our streets," said Mr Thomas. "Portobello is an amazingly vibrant and creative area of London and it is time to bang the big drum for what a wonderful area this is. We need to raise the awareness of that among visitors and residents across London and The Portobello Awards will help us to promote the area.

"The aim is to make the awards night an annual event and Portobello's most glittering night of the year."

The awards will go to the best of Portobello in many categories, including: antiques, arts and culture, bartender, bikes, bookshop, cocktail, coffee shop, community award, fashion, flowers, hair and beauty, health/restaurant and lifestyle, home made, independent films, juice bar, market and street food trader, newcomer, new media, photography, record shop, restaurant of the year/day and night, seasonal displays, visual artist and vintage.

SEARCH FOR A STAR: The new Portobello Awards will seek to recognise the best people and best enterprises in the community.

There will also be Portobello Awards for the area's best volunteer, the customer of the year, personality of the year, a long-standing award and the top, lifetime achievement award.

Voting booths for people to nominate their choice will open this week at The Tabernacle and at Mode. There will also be a voting stall which will move to different locations up and down Portobello Road – and one lucky voter will win a 'golden ticket' for two places at the awards ceremony, which besides the prize-giving will feature top local bands and celebrities of Portobello.

Once nominated, shops will display a window sticker in order to attract more votes. After the awards night, the winners will also receive special window stickers announcing them as the best of Portobello.

"The big night on December 3 will mark the launch of West London's premier awards," said Mr Thomas.

"Portobello has so much going for it; besides being the oldest independent market in London, the area is home to so many fabulous businesses and people and it's time to celebrate their achievements with a great night that will be the first of what I hope will become a highlight of the local calendar."

To follow the nominations and voting through social media networks, go to *Facebook.com/portobelloawards, Instagram @PortobellowAwards, Twitter @PortobelloAwards* and also the website *www.theportobelloawards.com*

Top names back football initiative to combat youth radicalisation

FROM PAGE 1

pupils from London schools, including Essendine Primary in Maida Vale, who were put through their paces by FA qualified coaches.

Religious leaders and other celebrities present joined in a kick-about.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn also attended the event and pledged his support for the initiative.

Others present included the president of one of the most successful clubs in the world, Atletico Madrid, German Robles Gonzalez, whose club has committed to promoting the Football for Unity concept throughout the world.

Maradona has agreed to be president of Football for Unity in South America.

A video pledging his admiration for the concept was shown at a press conference after the launch ceremony hosted by Southall MP, Virendra Sharma, one of the leading supporters of the programme.

The Unity of Faiths organisation was set up by Kensington social psychologist Dr Shamender Talwar and former Mayfair antiques dealer Anna Prior.

Full story and photo coverage in next week's London Weekly News

Is paper the write way in the future?

PAPER, not digital, archiving is the way forward, said the editor of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Professor Dave Garner, at a Celebration of Science event in Kensington Town Hall earlier this month.

His counter-intuitive claim is that society is losing valuable information by digitising records rather than relying on traditional paper filing. It is one of several lectures on the world of science, organised by Kensington and Chelsea Council, which run until October 18. All the events are free.

Other topics discussed have included planning and the built environment; with topics ranging from the computer modelling of the Boris bike to the challenges of engineering tunnels for Crossrail and the Thames Tideway Tunnel.

Former Labour minister lectures

FORMER Labour Home Secretary Alan Johnsonis giving a talk at St Peter's Church in Notting Hill on November 4.

Hosted by Friends of the Kensington Day Centre, doors open for the event at 7pm for drinks and the lecture will start at 7.45pm and will be followed by a book signing. Mr Johnson's 2013 book, 'This Boy', charts his childhood in Notting Hill.

Tickets are £30 or £35 on the door. Friends of Kensington Day Centre raises money to enable frail old people in North Kensington enjoy activities such as pottery, yoga, wifi lessons and iPad skills in a cheery building just off Kensington Park Road.

LWN

NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

May becomes chair of governors

THE Aldridge Foundation, the lead sponsor of Kensington Aldridge Academy, has appointed Mick May as the new chair of governors at the school, which was formally opened by the Duchess of Cambridge in January.

Mr May has succeeded Janice Shiner. The founder and chief executive of Blue Sky, an award-winning social enterprise for offender rehabilitation, Mick began his career in the City. There he progressed through senior roles within a number of large organisations before becoming one of the six founding partners of New Boathouse Capital. From 2003 he dedicated himself to the charitable sector, initially as MD of Groundwork Thames Valley and then establishing Blue Sky.

A Kensington resident, he served as a councillor in the 1990s, when he was also governor of Avondale Park Primary School and vice-chair of the Westway Development Trust. He retired this year but remains a member of the advisory board of Big Society Capital, chair of the Peel Institute, a property-owning community hub in Islington, and a trustee of Groundwork South.

Kensington Aldridge Academy, which is co-sponsored by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, opened in September 2014, proving a popular choice with local families, many of whom had previously had to journey out of the borough to find secondary school places. It has recently welcomed its second intake of year seven students and announced the opening of its sixth form from next September.

Honor Wilson-Fletcher, chief executive of the Aldridge Foundation said: "The foundation is committed to extremely high standards of governance, recruiting governors who are of a high calibre and who bring a range of skills and experience to their roles.

"Mick May brings great local knowledge and experience to the role and his appointment will further strengthen the academy's governance and work with the local community."

Schools unite to improve teaching

THREE schools in Kensington and Chelsea judged to be outstanding by Ofsted have made a successful joint bid to the Department for Education to become a teaching school alliance.

As a result, Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Holland Park School and Thomas Jones Primary School will work with other schools to provide high-quality training and development to both newly qualified teachers and experienced school staff.

The teaching schools initiative is part of the Government's plan to give schools a central role in raising standards. To qualify for selection all three schools had to:

- Have an outstanding rating from Ofsted
- Provide evidence of successful partnerships
- Show excellent leadership with a proven track record of school improvement
- Have an outstanding head teacher with at least three years' experience
- Have a leadership team with the capacity to lead the six core areas of the teaching school role.

Commenting on the new teaching school alliance, Kensington and Chelsea councillor Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "This is very good news for these outstanding schools. They will now be able to share the high levels of expertise that have marked them out over the years with new teachers and also experienced staff looking to develop their skills."

Paul Stubbings, head teacher at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, said: "This is a wonderful and forward-looking initiative which will bring all sorts of benefits, not only to the three schools in question but also – and more importantly – to the wider educational community."

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NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

DEBATE: Monty Python questions the value of Roman civil engineering.

Apart from providing vital services, what has public funding ever done for us?

I READ recently that a cinema in Bournemouth was set to show *Monty Python's Life of Brian*, 35 years after the local council prevented the film being screened in the town.

Controversial and funny, it provided some comedy gold, including the famous "What did the Romans ever do for us?" line, which prompted the response: "Apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the freshwater system and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?"

Well, although the Romans did their bit, we had some other fine developers of crucial infrastructure in our more recent history and here I'm thinking about the Victorians. We can thank their engineering skills and foresight for our sewers and water systems and many of our leading hospitals and schools. Of course, after well over 100 years of sterling service, even the best engineered sewers and well-built schools sometimes need replacement, because demands and standards change.

Right now the borough's Victorian infrastructure is getting quite an overhaul. Gas mains built 120 years ago are being replaced, Thames Water is embarking on ground surveys of the Counters Creek sewer, built by the great engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, as part of work to try and prevent the type of flooding we saw in 2007 and, of course, the Victorian Marlborough School building in Chelsea is being replaced with a modern school, and some of our major local hospitals also have big plans to upgrade and redevelop.

I've been a politician for quite a while now and one thing I learned very quickly is that major infrastructure projects bring disruption and disruption brings concern and often complaints and anger. In these cases I would urge people to look at the bigger picture.

Even conservative-minded people like me recognise that sometimes change is unavoidable if the borough is to retain its unique attractiveness as a place to live.

Anyone who witnessed the misery that the local floods brought with them in 2007 would know that work on the Counters Creek sewer, to ensure such an occurrence is not repeated in the future, is vital.

In February next year work will begin in the borough on replacing metal gas mains with more durable modern pipes. It's a major London-wide project costing nearly £1 billion.

The programme will reduce the amount of unplanned work on the gas network and is essential to provide safe and reliable energy to businesses, schools and homes.

A lot has been written about Marlborough School and why we are replacing it with a new building. It certainly is fair to say that the Victorian building has given great service for a long time. But, the way we educate our children has changed and the building really has some quite stark shortcomings: perhaps the most major being that it really is not acceptable today to have a building that a disabled pupil cannot move around in.

I hope that the infrastructure works, be they gas pipes, sewers or school buildings, will prove as durable and future proof as the originals created by the sweat and genius of our Victorian predecessors.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

Mayor makes case for new policing and crime museum

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has confirmed that talks are under way to secure a permanent home for the public display of Scotland Yard's collection of crime artefacts.

The proposed Policing and Crime Museum will bring together one of the most extraordinary collections of police related memorabilia in the world. There have been calls for a permanent public exhibition about the history of the Metropolitan Police to open for many years, but its unique collection is scattered across London, much of it behind closed doors.

A major show now open at the Museum of London, near The Barbican, suggests there is significant demand. The Crime Museum Uncovered exhibition is, for the first time, putting on public display a selection of around 600 pieces from the New Scotland Yard collection.

Hundreds more objects, papers and other items exist, telling the incredible history of the world's oldest police force and the new museum will enable the general public to see it for the first time.

The exhibition allows people to see objects from the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum, which was established by the police as a teaching tool in the mid-1870s and was previously only accessible to police professionals and invited guests.

The Mayor said: "It is astonishing that, despite being the birthplace of modern policing, there is no major museum telling the history of our first public service and the men and women who keep London safe.

"The huge public interest in The Crime Museum Uncovered demonstrates public appetite for learning about the world's oldest police force. I am thrilled that, working with the Museum of London and the Metropolitan Police, we are coming closer to delivering a new world-class museum for London."

Following talks with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Deputy Mayor for the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime, the Mayor hopes to confirm details of the Crime Museum's location in the next few months.

It is expected that the new museum will be delivered in partnership with the Museum of London. Funding for the new museum will be sought from a number of sources, including corporate and private sponsors.

"As well as being a significant new cultural attraction for the capital, the new institution will be an important educational resource, offering insights into the history and work of one of the biggest police forces in the world," said a spokesman.

The Crime Museum Uncovered exhibition examines the changing nature of crime and advances in detection over the last 140 years, while also giving voice to the people behind the crimes; victims, offenders and police officers alike.

Labour accuses council of plan to 'stifle democracy'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ANGRY scenes are expected at the Town Hall this week as the opposition Labour Party fights furiously a proposal by the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council to cut the length and frequency of its meetings.

Councillor Robert Atkinson, leader of the RBKC Labour members, has damned the plan as a gagging move aimed at stifling local democracy.

The Conservative-ruled council is proposing that the time allowed for meetings where councillors debate local issues and call officers to task is slashed by a third.

The council is also proposing to cut the number of council meetings each year from seven to five.

"This is a deliberate attempt to stifle discussion and opposition and it will be resisted fiercely by the Labour opposition," said Councillor Atkinson.

"It will also be resisted by residents who believe that our overblown and secretive council needs more, not less, scrutiny and democratic discussion."

Councillor Atkinson said that due to the controversies raging in the borough, the council should instead increase the number of meetings. It is understood that many Labour councillors want 12 full meetings a year.

■ CRITIC: Councillor Robert Atkinson has condemned proposals to reduce the number of council meetings.

"Given the disasters caused by the ill-considered dash to tri-borough working, poor privatisation contracts and the wholesale dismantling of services, we need more, not less democratic debate," he said.

He added: "I urge all residents to take a look at the implications of this proposal and not to take at face value the bland press statement from the council that I predict is heading your way."

Councillor Atkinson added: "For a few heady months, residents of the Royal Borough who petitioned the council with more than 1,500 signatures were able to attend the Council meeting, address councillors about their issue, listen to a full debate and then receive a response from the appropriate Cabinet member.

"Matters that have been successfully brought into the council chamber this way include the need for Notting Hill Prep School to expand its premises, concerns about the presence of asbestos in the Earl's Court development and the imminent demolition of Marlborough School. This is all set to change as the Council reviews the petitioning system.

"Our Tory councillors are 'frit' – they are frightened to face their residents, frightened to debate with Labour and frightened to be accountable to electors. All they want is to leave early to go and have their dinner. Given the number of problems that the council is running into in implementing its tri- borough and service privatisation programmes, we need more and not less democratic debate."

London Weekly News sought a response from Kensington and Chelsea council but the authority had not issued a statement at the time of going to press.

Pressing appointment for apple lovers

YOU can have a go at pressing newly harvested apples at the Ecology Centre in Holland Park on Saturday, October 17.

There are varieties to tickle every type of taste bud – from the Royal Gala noted for its sweet flavour and crisp texture to the Cox renowned for its balance of flavours and tartness and the Bramley well known for its sharp tang. The pressing offers a chance to see a traditional method of making apple juice in practice and is an ideal family event.

In addition to pressing apples there is an opportunity to take part in games and crafts including: a longest peel competition, an apple quiz, apple printing and making an apple bird feeder.

Booking is not necessary. Just pop into the Ecology Centre anytime between 12 and 4pm.

Have your say

on the proposal for the new Silvertown Tunnel

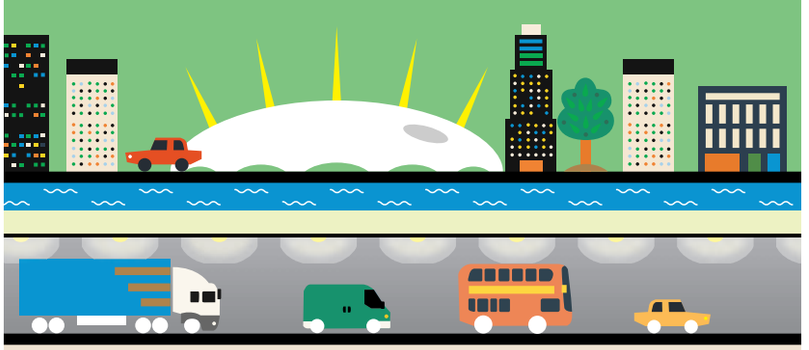
We're giving you an opportunity to have your say on the proposal for a new tunnel at Silvertown, before a planning application is submitted in Spring 2016.
The new tunnel will:

- Reduce queuing at the Blackwall Tunnel by providing a nearby alternative river crossing
- Offer new cross-river bus link opportunities
- Support the creation of new jobs and homes

Our scheme includes a proposal to introduce a charge to use the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. This would help manage traffic-flow and fund the new tunnel.

To find out more please visit tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel

The consultation ends 29 November 2015



MAYOR OF LONDON

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

'Riverside development could create 6,500 jobs'

THE Mayor of London has announced major plans for the redevelopment of 86 acres of industrial land owned by the Greater London Authority in London Riverside.

Boris Johnson claims the development will have the potential to create 6,500 new jobs in east London and means that 99 per cent of all Greater London Authority land has now been released for development.

Once signed, the partnership between the Greater London Authority and property firm SEGRO will be the largest deal of its kind between the public sector and a private land developer in the capital.

A spokesman for the mayor's office said: "This is a considerable step forward for the Mayor's vision for London Riverside, which includes housing plans for Barking Riverside and the surrounding areas that have now been boosted through this job creation."

Following a nine-month procurement process, SEGRO, one of the UK's leading industrial property companies, has been selected as the Greater London Authority's preferred partner to deliver the development on the sites, which are known collectively as East Plus. East Plus is a series of industrial locations spanning Newham, Barking and Dagenham and Havering on both sides of the A13 corridor – a key route giving fantastic access to both central London and the Port of Tilbury.

The Mayor said: "London's population is at a record high and people are increasingly looking to the east as a place to live and work. We are already working hard to build the houses that people need, so I am delighted to welcome SEGRO aboard to help create the jobs. This site has bags of potential and I can see it becoming one of the most sought after addresses for industry – whether large or small."

The planned 10-year partnership between the GLA and SEGRO will see 86 acres of land across five sites rejuvenated for a range of industrial uses, with the land to be transferred to the developers in stages over the life of the partnership. SEGRO thinks the sites can support about 1.4 million sq ft of new urban logistics and light industrial spaces, suitable for occupiers ranging from blue-chip companies to start-up firms. SEGRO's investment is expected to be approximately £180 million over the coming years.

Ric Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, said: "In stimulating the return of industry to London Riverside, this development shows a real commitment to supporting local trades and presenting new opportunities to attract businesses, keeping east London's industrial heritage alive.

"As part of the Mayor's vision for east London, we are working hard to create a mixture of residential and commercial property. Industrial life has long been the lifeblood of communities and SEGRO have great plans to promote training, education and employment. I am delighted to have them on board."

SEGRO were successful in their bid to deliver the transformation of London Riverside following a nine-month competition for the 10-year deal.

David Sleath, SEGRO chief executive, said: "We are delighted to have been selected as the exclusive development partner to the GLA to enable the redevelopment of one of London's most important industrial areas."

NEW FUTURE: An artist's impression of Barking Riverside.

Aristocrat revisits terrors of childhood sexual abuse

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS allegations of child sexual abuse – citing MPs, celebrities and peers of the realm, alike – continue to emerge, a member the aristocracy is joining the growing crusade to expose this crime.

Robert Montagu, youngest son of the late 10th Earl of Sandwich, is gearing up to present a talk focusing on the abuse he was subjected to as a child in the 1960s by his father, Victor – and the subsequent image-saving cover-up by the Montagu family.

By giving this narrative he hopes to help victims and their relatives face up to the terrible nature of abuse plus the devastating consequences of sweeping it under the carpet.

"The evening is due to be chaired by Mike Palmer-Fry, a trained counsellor and therapist," said event director Julian Whiting.

"With an audience including professional safeguarders, police and community officials, plus representatives from charities and organisations involved in the arena of abuse support and recovery, it's going to provide a great platform for networking – all in all a safe setting for people to talk and debate the issues," he added.

ORDEAL: Robert Montagu, youngest son of the late 10th Earl of Sandwich, is gearing up to present a talk focusing on the abuse he was subjected to as a child in the 1960s by his father, former MP Victor.

Up to the age of seven Robert enjoyed a happy and loving childhood relationship with his parents Rosemary and Victor, plus five older siblings – brother John, now the 11th Earl of Sandwich and a respected member of the House of Lords, plus four sisters.

But the marriage broke down and Robert remained with his father at the family's ancestral home in Mapperton, Dorset. Soon fatherly love gave way to lust, sexual abuse and ultimately rape, as Victor – who renounced his title to sit in the Commons as Tory MP for South Dorset – groomed young Robert to provide the 'comfort' he was missing.

Incredibly, over the next four years none of the siblings suspected anything – until one of the sisters realised that 11-year-old Robert was sharing a bath with their father. Her fears were confirmed when Robert was questioned by the family doctor and his mother.

But no action was taken as the family closed ranks in silence to protect its reputation – and Robert remained in contact with Victor until his death in 1995.

Now aged in his sixties, Robert is happily married to successful sculptress and artist Maria Colonna. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

After a successful business career, he trained and qualified as a family therapist. Ten years ago he set up the Dorset Child and Family Counselling Trust – now known as the Family Counselling Trust (*www.familycounsellingtrust.org*) – a charitable trust with a team of therapists offering counselling to children, adolescents and families across Dorset and Wiltshire.

Summing up his 'life after abuse', Robert is philosophical.

"I've managed to do pretty well over the years through a combination of helpful influences – my wife, writing and performing as a therapist, bringing up children in a way that's loving but not abusive," he says.

"Had it not happened, I wouldn't have become a therapist. And I wouldn't have gone on to do what I'm most proud of, which is to build a trust which helps children who are emotionally distressed."

The Robert Montagu Talk takes place at St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB on October 21, from 6.30pm to 10pm. Tickets cost £10, including a curry, and the event is for those aged 16 years and over.

Appeal for more adoption families

CHILDREN from black and mixed heritage backgrounds wait longer for adoptive families than white children, researchers claim.

Now, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Council are appealing to potential adopters to come to adoption information event on Thursday, October 22 to find out about the children waiting for adoption. As well as children from black and mixed heritage backgrounds, children over four, sibling groups and children with disabilities often wait longer for adoption.

The councils want to encourage people who might not have thought about adoption in the past and who feel they could meet the needs of these groups of children to consider adopting a child.

The event takes place at Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX between 10am and noon – and between 6pm and 8pm.

The Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Family Services, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, said: "Adoption is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Over the past year we have approved 23 adoptive families and nine families have welcomed their newly adopted children home. "We're appealing to anyone interested in adoption to come forward, it is a lifetime commitment but it really is worth all the work involved."

For more information call 020 8753 2303 or email this address: *adoption@rbkc.gov.uk*

Design a card for market Christmas

TALENTED youngsters are being invited to create a special Christmas card to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of Portobello and Golborne Market.

The market's management committee is asking children aged from four to 11 to enter their competition to come up with an official seasonal greetings card. A panel of market traders and council officers will choose their favourite and the winning card designer will be invited to switch on the Portobello Square Christmas tree lights at the official ceremony on Saturday, November 14. The winner will also receive 25 greetings cards printed with their design and £50 of treats from the market. Their original artwork will be displayed in the Market Office window in Portobello Square and around the borough.

The winner's school will also receive a Christmas goodie bag containing £50 of treats from the market.

To enter, simply create a colourful and original greetings card design that will fit on a standard A4 size piece of paper. Mark the following details on the back, or attach to the picture: Name, age, contact phone number, email address and name of school.

Send entries to RBKC Market Office, 72 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN, by 1pm on Friday, November 6. The winner will be notified by Monday, November 9. Entries are limited to one per person and should not contain collages of magazine images due to copyright issues.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

BananaTree

DELICIOUS FOOD FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, THAILAND, INDONESIA and THE PENINSULA OF MALAYSIA and SINGAPORE

Diners looking for something deliciously different are taking tables at Bayswater's Banana Tree, where the wide choice of exotic and exciting dishes have made the restaurant the No 1 choice for excellent Indochinese cuisine.

The vision of founder and head chef William Chow has so captured the imagination and taste of London's discerning diners that from his first 36-seat West London café, established in 1991, business has now boomed to six restaurants across the capital, including the busy Bayswater branch at 21-23 Westbourne Grove.

The key to the Banana Tree's success is passion – a passion for great-tasting and adventurous Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian and Singaporean cuisine, served with inspiring Oriental cocktails in a relaxed but buzzing atmosphere which has fans of the brand returning again and again.

As well as their wide ranging and exciting menu and a great selection of gluten-free and vegetarian dishes. Banana Tree Bayswater offers a weekdays Express Lunch starting at a bargain £5.95, a children's menu and takeaway menu. Happy Hour is available on selected cocktails and mocktails including the Indochine Daiquiri, Cuba Libre, Lychee Mojito and Virgin Passion Fruit Cooler, all served in a modern, relaxed and family-friendly interior which is popular for group bookings, birthday parties and special occasions.

"What Banana Tree stands for is the huge variety of great, healthy food from the Indochina region," says William. "We pick only the very best dishes from all of these countries and then share them on one dining table for a dining experience unlike any other. Because they share common herbs and spices, the cuisine from the countries we represent really complement each other and are delicious on their own or together."

"The food we offer is very wide-ranging, from everyone's favourite Phad Thai Noodles and Blackened Chilli Beef, to Tamarind Crispy Fish with Thai Basil Glaze, or the Legendary Rendang. A slow-cooked, rich and nutty Indonesian curry with a toasted coconut-based sauce, Rendang was voted one of the 'most delicious food in the world' in a CNN poll of global travellers and is the undisputed 'King Of Curries.'

Other branches can be found in Soho (Wardour Street), Clapham Junction, Islington, West Hampstead and Maida Vale.

Banana Tree have been working closely with the Orangutan Appeal UK since 2012 and are honoured to have donated more than £24,000, over the last 3 years to help rescue orphan baby orangutans and prepare them for rehabilitation into the wild. One of the most successful initiatives undertaken by the restaurant group has been the donation of 25p from every order of their delicious Crispy Chicken in Mango and Sweet Lime Sauce dish, as well as a share of the kids menu, to this amazing charity.

Banana Tree offers take away for both food and certain drinks aswell as delivery service via Deliveroo.

Court fines landlord £48,000 after fire at rogue property

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A LANDLORD who failed to ensure his multiply occupied property met fire safety standards, resulting in a man narrowly escaping with his life, has pleaded guilty to offences under the Housing Act 2004 at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court.

He was fined over £48,000.

The maisonette at 1 Brompton Cottages, Hollywood Road, London SW10 9HL is owned by Edward Hutley Investments Ltd, which in turn rented out the property to another company, Chelsea Residential Ltd, run by Director Mr Zhe "Dean" Zhang.

With the knowledge of the owner, Mr Zhang created an additional bedroom (so the tenants only shared kitchen and bathroom facilities) then sub-let the property to five residents, who he found via the Spare Room and other flat share websites. Mr Zhang failed to ensure that essential smoke detectors or self-closing fire doors were installed.

The court heard that on the night of January 7 a fire started in one of the upper floor rooms (which did not meet the council's minimum space standards).

A portable electric heater ignited some clothing hanging nearby and the tenant fled the property without alerting the other occupants. The door to the room did not self-close and so the landing and stairway quickly filled with smoke and flames.

The court also heard that there should have been no need to use the heater as the property had a central heating system. However, the landlord had locked the timer controls cupboard, only allowing the heating to come on for two hours a day.

A tenant in an upper floor front room was asleep in his bed when the fire started. A phone call from his girlfriend woke him and he found a layer of smoke lying a few feet below his ceiling. He could not escape from the building because the landing and stairs, the only escape route from the building, were filled with smoke and flames. He had to smash open the lock to his window and jump out from the first floor. A fire officer standing below caught his fall, preventing serious injury, and he was treated in hospital afterwards for shock and smoke inhalation.

Two other occupants, one of whom was a five-year-old girl, were at home at the time but were able to get out before the fire took hold. As a result five residents lost their homes and found that much of their clothing and other belongings were ruined by smoke.

Officers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Environmental Health Department and the London Fire Brigade inspected the property soon after the fire and found that it had been rendered uninhabitable.

The following failures were noted:

- there were no smoke alarms
- the escape route from the building (in this case the stairs, landing and hallways) was not protected so that that any fire arising from the occupied rooms would held back for at least 30 minutes
- no fire resistant doors, fitted with self-closing devices, were installed in the bedrooms.

Charges were brought against Mr Zhang and his company for breaches of regulations governing the management of houses in multiple occupation under the Housing Act 2004. Mr Zhang's company, Chelsea Residential, was fined a total of £40,000 (£5,000 for eight separate offences). Chelsea Residential was ordered to pay costs of £2,000 and a £120 victim surcharge.

Mr Zhang was fined £4,000 (£500 for eight separate offences) and ordered to pay costs of £1,965 and a £120 victim surcharge. In total both defendants were ordered to pay £48,205 within 28 days.

Councillor Rock Feilding-Mellen, the Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "It is only by a stroke of luck that there wasn't at least one death or serious injury on that fateful night in January this year. In this instance the landlord neglected to ensure that the property met the necessary safety standards. I'm also shocked that in the height of winter he only permitted the central heating to be on for a mere two hours a day and it's no wonder that tenants had to resort to using their own heaters. I hope that this prosecution acts as a deterrent to other landlords that safety is paramount and that they must ensure that their properties meet the necessary standards."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The Festive Art of Chocolate, a masterclass with edible art pioneer Paul Wayne Gregory, will take place on November 19 at The Arch in Marylebone, starting at 6.30pm and costing £70 per person.

BRAHMA KUMARIS

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Doctors seek apprentices for administrative roles

LONDON GPs are looking for young people who would like to gain experience and qualifications by taking up an apprenticeship in a GP surgery.

For those aged 18 or over and educated to either GCSE or A-Level this is an opportunity to learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills. The hands-on approach is combined with training days where apprentices will get the opportunity to meet with other apprentices and work face to face with a trainer. They will also be earning a salary.

Londonwide Local Medical Committees (LMCs) works with three partners, The Princes Trust, Health Education North West London and Communities Into Training and Employment, to run a programme designed to give young, local people a route into administration within general practice.

A pilot programme is currently running in North West London, where eight apprentices have been placed in practices and working towards either Level 2 or 3 of the Business and Administration GNVQ.

"Londonwide LMCs is the independent voice of GPs in the capital and we support and represent over 7,000 GPs and over 1,300 practices in London. Our aim is to secure the future of general practice in London through and part of that work is ensuring we have the best workforce in place to meet the Capital's health challenges," said a spokesman.

Kate Creegan, programme manager for Get Into at the Prince's Trust, the UK's leading youth charity said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to support disadvantaged young people into apprenticeships within general practice in this scheme.

"The practice managers involved really understood the challenges disadvantaged young people face when getting into work providing engaging and supportive work experience opportunities as part of the programme".

One of the apprentices, Joel Carmody, who is currently placed in a GP surgery in Harrow, explained why he was enjoying his apprenticeship.

TRAINING: London GPs are seeking apprentices in administrative roles.

He said: "It's being part of the NHS; I feel like a true team member, I don't feel like I get treated any differently."

Joel is already looking to the future; with a keen interest in IT he is hoping to stay within the public health sector.

"I would like to see further innovation and ways of integrating it within patients' healthcare, and so give them more independence with their own health."

Practice manager Fiona McLachlan explained why she wanted to be involved in the scheme.

She said: "I believe in investing in young people who want to train with us. I think the scope for development within a general practice setting affords an opportunity for a young person, and I was prepared to invest the time into making that happen."

"We are also keen for any GP surgeries that are interested in taking on an apprentice to get in contact with us," said the spokesman.

If you would like more information about the apprentice scheme please contact Stran-Jay Schloss by emailing *Stran-Jay.Schloss@lmc.org.uk*

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Age proves no barrier to getting fit and healthy

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, celebrates a new funding award for the Trust and its partners to encourage more families and people over 50 to get active

IT is with great pleasure that this week we can celebrate a £105,000 grant award from Sport England for the Go Generation sports project, aimed at encouraging families and people aged over 50 living in North Kensington to take part in sport and healthy exercise.

Go Generation is led by the Community Sport and Physical Activity Network, which leads activity and wellbeing opportunities in Kensington and Chelsea, with seven partners including Westway Trust.

Go Generation plans to tempt 1,800 local people to take part in sport and healthy exercise at least once a week. A whole range of sports and exercise opportunities will be made available to people, such as table tennis, canoeing, tennis, bowls, swimming and cycling. Sessions will take place in informal sessions at community and leisure centres, as well as our own Westway Sports Centre, and will be inclusive and accessible to everyone.

Research showed us that fewer than one in three people in the north of the borough took part in exercise for at least half an hour each week. This is a staggering statistic, but perhaps not surprising given the national picture of inactivity and what we know about high levels of obesity in the area.

People stated barriers as lack of time, no-one to go with, cost, poor health and lack of childcare. The funding means that activities can be subsidised and will start at as little as £2 a session. They will be at convenient times and will include social activities where you can meet people and make new friends.

Research also found that the over 50s would like to take part in sports they used to play when they were younger and that families preferred team and multi-sports, with the opportunity for parents and children to join in together.

■ EXERCISE FOR ALL: Tennis can improve fitness.

Being involved in Go Generation enables Westway Trust to work in collaboration with other expert health and community-based organisations to make a difference to people's lives. The six other partners are RBKC Leisure Services, Open Age, EPIC CIC Age UK, The Venture Centre, Dalgarno Trust and the Canalside Activity Centre.

By sharing our resources and expertise, we will be able to offer bespoke and tailored opportunities to all those wishing to take part. This aspect of our bid was commended by Sport England's Director of Community Sport, Mike Diaper, who said: "It's great to be working with innovative projects like Go Generation, which offer more people the chance to get active in a way that suits them best."

Securing funding for the project is particularly remarkable given only 40 projects across the whole country were successful.

The principle of the fund is to empower local communities to reach out to people who for one reason or another don't exercise, which speaks to the heart of our vision. Promoting healthy, active lifestyles is a major priority as we continue to raise our game in improving the health and wellbeing of local people.

Our sports and fitness facilities play an important role in helping to remedy pockets of particularly high levels of obesity and physical inactivity. In the next decade, we want to enhance our facilities and community health projects to effectively battle against a range of health inequalities and exclusion from sports participation.

Go Generation will launch in January 2016 and run for three years. Some of those who take part will be trained as sports leaders by the Trust to help and encourage others in their network to join in. It is open to people aged over 50 and families living in the Golborne, Notting Dale, St Helens, Colville and Dalgarno wards.

Westway Trust will be employing a 'sports activator' to run the project on behalf of the partnership.

Taking part in sport and exercising for just half an hour a week may not seem very much but experts say people find it achievable and a perfect way to get back into healthy habits.

More details can be found on our website *www.westway.org* and I encourage all those who want to get involved to get in touch.

Festival salutes a rich heritage

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE sixth Nour Festival continues to illuminate contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa, in venues across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea – and runs from 20 October until 8 November.

Showcasing film, music, literature, poetry, performance and visual arts, Nour reaches a diverse audience of local, national and international visitors. It grows each year to take new audiences on an unforgettable journey into the region, its cultures and art forms.

Sharing this year's journey are new partners that resonate with the festival's commitment to culture: The Pheasantry music venue and Saatchi Gallery on the King's Road, independent art galleries Muse and London Print Studio, and The Print Room theatre now in residence at its new home of the former Notting Hill Coronet cinema.

This commitment brings a number of artists to UK audiences for the first time including the Iraqi poet-journalist Omar al-Jaffal's projections of Baghdad through poetry and prose; Saudi photographer Adel Quraishi's commanding portraits of the last Guardians of the Prophet's Mosque at Medina, and soulful Franco-Moroccan singer Hindi Zahra. With over 50 events in 18 venues across 20 days, Nour 2015 presents a strong narrative from artists challenging preconceptions, sparking debate and providing insight into culture from across the MENA region.

NOUR FESTIVAL OF ARTS

■ FOR YOU: Nour Festival 2015.

Nour Festival steering committee member Roya Arab will again be involved in this year's itinerary.

Roya is a musician and archaeologist and is currently an honorary research assistant at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. Her research examines the socio-political and economic uses and abuses of the past in the present, while her work promotes MENA region heritage.

Roya will be curating a panel discussion on the critical state of MENA heritage and an Iranian Theatre Retrospective workshop. She will also be singing for Scheherazade's Night.

The Iranian Theatre Retrospective day-long workshop, perhaps the first of its kind in the West, takes an overview from early indigenous entertainment forms to the modern plays of the 1960s and ends with the theatre scene post-1979 revolution.

Thoughtful and thought-provoking, engaging and entertaining, people should enjoy exploring Nour Festival 2015.

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LAP OF LUXURY: Inside at the Waldorf Hilton, where meticulous attention to detail during the refurbishment project has ensured that the iconic venue has retained its 1920s grandeur.

Curtain up on Waldorf's new West End look

The Waldorf Hilton *****

THE Waldorf Hilton, one of London's most famous hotels in the heart of the West End, has just been given a £13.5 million hotel-wide renovation and I was invited along to see the newly refurbished grandeur for myself, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

As I'm the *London Weekly News* theatre critic, for me, the Grade II listed building is set in the perfect place, right in the heart of theatre land between the Aldwych and Novello theatres.

You are reminded of the theatre connections when immediately you enter the lobby, where you are first greeted by Willy Wonka's magnificent great glass elevator perfectly set against the backdrop of the glamorous 1920s-style decor. The place was bustling, with afternoon tea being served, and I sat for a while and drank in the atmosphere of the bar, while I waited for my room to be ready.

My guest room was on the second floor and after some great service from the concierges I made my way up to what was an extremely comfortable room. Fox Linton Associates drew inspiration for the decor from the glamour of the 1920s and the room was both sleek and serene.

I took afternoon tea in the executive lounge, which is elegantly furnished and offers an oasis for either work or relaxation in its stylish surroundings. After a couple of hours of work I then took to the Homage dining room for an early dinner before the evening's fashion event. It was London Fashion Week and I had been invited to attend Kithe Brewster's Pop-up runway presentation so I had an early supper in the restaurant, which offers all-day dining in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. Often you can be serenaded by a harp player and the menu offers European cuisine presented in a contemporary manner.

I enjoyed a wonderful three-course meal consisting of Parma ham, fig and feta cheese salad to start, slow cooked free range chicken, crushed potatoes, buttered kale and thyme jus for my main and a pistachio creme brûlée with sugar run out and biscotti for desert. Service was excellent, food exquisite and with a glass of wine I felt as though I'd been thoroughly spoiled.

I then spent the evening in the magnificent Adelphi Suite function space, which has been given a new 'champagne elegance' colour palette and boasts stunning bespoke chandeliers with 1920s flute glass shades. With decadent marble floors and balconies, the reception and fashion event perfectly illustrated the The Waldorf Hilton's ability to host something that is at the height of contemporary culture within the most wonderfully traditional backdrop.

Alison Palin, the hotel's general manager, said: "Every element of this landmark refurbishment has been taken into careful consideration. The attention to detail to ensure that the feel and grandeur of the 1920s remains instilled in the iconic hotel has been top priority – it first opened its doors in 1908 and, although times have changed, the style and elegance of days gone by has remained for guests to enjoy. The Waldorf Hilton has been a stalwart fixture of the West End, providing guests with superb service and elegance for 107 years. This renovation will ensure that it continues to do so, in true Edwardian style, for many years to come."

SITTING COMFORTABLY: The Waldorf Hilton's stunning Palm Court awaits its evening guests.

SET FAIR: Functions and ceremonies are catered for at the recently refurbished Waldorf Hilton, which looks suitably at home in its theatre land setting in central London.

FULL VOICE: The Commonwealth Festival Choir's youth division.

£20million treasure chest to give young Londoners hope

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has thanked Londoners and businesses that have helped to raise a staggering £20million for the three charities he set up to increase opportunities and improve the life chances for young people in the capital.

Since 2008, funding has been pouring in from dozens of businesses, philanthropists, corporate sponsors, as well as thousands of individual Londoners, to support the important work being done by the Mayor's Fund for London, the Mayor's Music Fund and The Legacy List. Tens of thousands of young people across every London borough have benefited as a result of this generosity.

Mr Johnson said: "London is one of the most successful cities in the world and as we emerge from the economic downturn I want to ensure all young Londoners are able to share in our city's future success and prosperity.

"Thanks to the generosity of businesses and Londoners themselves thousands of youngsters across the capital have benefited over the last eight years. From giving disadvantaged young Londoners the skills and opportunities to get a decent job and nurturing the talent of gifted young musician to creating educational and cultural programmes for young people as a legacy of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, I am immensely proud and grateful for the public spiritedness that is to be found in our city. There is still more that needs to be done and I hope more people living and working in the capital will be inspired to support the important work of our three charities."

The Mayor's Fund for London alone has spent almost £13 million to support young Londoners in all 33 boroughs. Its activities have benefited 50,000 young people in schools and helped 1,500 unemployed youngsters into work. The fund is also currently working with 200 schools and 250 employers in the capital.

The Mayor's Music Fund has similarly enjoyed a huge amount of support from businesses, philanthropists and other supporters since being established in 2011. Each year it awards grants worth £400,000 to enable gifted youngsters to develop their talent as musicians, with 340 talented children from low-income families receiving four-year music scholarships. In addition, more than 6,500 young Londoners have also taken part in music and cultural projects, including being mentored by and performing alongside professional musicians at venues around the capital.

The Legacy List, which was established to ensure local children benefit from the cultural and educational opportunities being created in and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, has invested more than £1,700,000 in a creative programme and has been working with 650,000 local people, including 16,000 pupils from 120 schools in the boroughs surrounding the park. The Legacy List has supported almost 70 cultural organisations to build new audiences amongst the local population and through its partners has supported a range of activity by 530 artists.

The charity, which has merged with the Foundation for FutureLondon, set up for the advancement of art, culture, education, heritage and science in east London, has also supported 718 jobs, training and volunteering opportunities and 140 arts awards undertaken by 14-25 year olds.

Michelle Pinggera, partner, Goldman Sachs, which supports the Mayor's Fund for London, said: "Here at Goldman Sachs we support Young London Working, a Mayor's Fund programme that creates pathways to jobs, apprenticeships and work experience. The fund has carried out important work across the capital for a number of years – positively impacting the lives of thousands of young people – and we are proud to continue our support for them."

OPPORTUNITIES: Boris Johnson has thanked the benefactors who backed three special charity funds.

Lord Fink said: "The Mayor's Fund for London has achieved great things over the years and I am very proud to be one of the founding trustees. It has equipped thousands of young Londoners with the skills and opportunities to get a decent job. Over the next three years, our aim is to help another 100,000 young people in London."

Jonathan Moulds, Group Chief Operating Officer for Barclays Bank plc, commented: "As a trustee and supporter of the Mayor's Music Fund I am delighted to see the positive impact of the charity's work on young Londoners through the Scholarship and Partnership programmes. I am thrilled to have been a part of this organisation over the past four years and I look forward to its continued success."

Lincoln Abbotts, Director of Strategic Development at ABRSM, said: "ABRSM wants to support and inspire as many people as possible to participate and progress in music. That's why we're working in partnership with the Mayor's Music Fund to give young musicians in London the opportunity to realise their musical potential."

Steven Elworthy, aged 23, from Lewisham, benefited from the Mayor's Fund For-London.

He said: "I began on an employability programme which helped in my ability to land interviews and be confident in interviews by assisting me with my CV, providing tips and rewording key skills employers want. They also helped me with interview techniques by allowing me to practise with real employers and receive feedback from them which any fellow jobseeker will know is rare. Young London Working helped me much more after the two-week programme. On a daily basis I was being provided with new and career-related opportunities. Young London Working helped me fill out application forms, fast-tracked me to interviews and using the skills I was taught I managed to land myself a job as a client services support administrator for Optimity. Furthermore, due to taking this role on board I had to refuse several other job offers which would never have happened if I didn't pay attention to what I had been taught.

The best advice I can give to any jobseeker is never give up and see every result as positive.

If you didn't get the job you applied for, take the experience to a new interview and as you go forward your techniques will become more crisp and your confidence cannot falter!

www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/programme/young-london-working

LETTERS

Labour party roles clarified

WE are writing in response to the letter from Cllr Robert Atkinson, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Labour Group, to clarify the continued confusion about the differing roles and responsibilities of the RBKC Labour Group of councillors, and of Kensington Labour Party.

Kensington Labour Party comprises nearly 1,200 Labour Party members who live in Kensington constituency. We meet regularly to discuss issues of concern, locally and nationally, and feed into the decision-making process of the national Labour Party. We decide campaign priorities and agree motions to be sent annually to the party conference. Local members are also responsible for selecting (and deselecting) councillors, and have oversight of their performance.

RBKC Labour Group of councillors comprises the 12 elected ward councillors who sit on committees, deal with casework, and lead campaigns across the borough and in their wards. Sometimes councillors also sit on Kensington Labour Party Executive. Councillors and local members all play a part in agreeing priorities for local campaigns, and are allowed a degree of independence from the national Labour Party manifesto.

The two motions agreed by Kensington Labour Party members, relating to Trident and to taxpayer funding of the monarchy, were proposed by local members and both were agreed almost unanimously. The Trident motion was the motion chosen to be sent to conference, where it narrowly failed to be debated.

To summarise, local members have the right to propose motions on local or national matters to feed into national policy. They also have the right to formulate their own local campaign priorities, which are a separate matter entirely.

David Kear, Kensington Labour Party chair; Sina Lari, vice-chair; Emma Dent Coad (Councillor), vice-chair

Charity story

RONALD McDonald House Guy's and St Thomas would like to invite readers to create a bedtime story set in our local area to raise awareness and funds for our charity.

We rely on the generosity of the public to provide free 'home away from home' accommodation for lots of families each year who have children in hospital nearby.

We hope that readers will get involved via our website at *www.rmhc.org.uk/stories*

Richard Francis House Manager, Ronald McDonald House Guy's and St Thomas, Snowsfields, London SE1 3SS

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

London Weekly News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Co-op	104-105 Berwick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Co-op	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	Kensington	SW7 4EJ
Tesco Metro	146-148 High Street	Kensington	W8 6SU
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB
Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	51 Townsmead Road	Fulham	SW6 2SY
Sainsbury's Store	Fulham Broadway Retail Centre	Fulham	SW6 1BW
Co-op	254 North End Road	London	SW6 1NJ
Co-op	314 Lillie Road	Fulham	SW6 7PS
Co-op	60 Parsons Green Lane	Fulham	SW6 4HU
Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
Tesco Super Store	180 Shepherds Bush Road	London	W6 7NL
Marketing Dept Fulham & Hammersmith Council	King Street	London	W6 9JU
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

WM Morrisons	114-116 Shepherds Bush Centre	Shepherds Bush	W12 8PP

LET'S CELEBRATE! The Hackney New Primary School will move to a new home in 2017

Capital's challenge to create thousands more school places

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MAYOR of London Boris Johnson confirmed on Friday this week that he has found a home for one of London's much-needed new free schools, creating an additional 400 primary school places.

With central government required to provide 30,000 new places by 2016 as a result of London's growing population, the Mayor is continuing to deliver on his promise to help alleviate this pressure, and has now created 10,000 new places since 2012.

The Hackney New Primary School will move onto the site of the former Kingsland Road fire station once its purpose-built new home is ready in September 2017. While the brand new building is being constructed, the school has been set up in special temporary premises inside its parent school, Hackney New School, which is just across the road.

Hackney New School is a comprehensive secondary school and has already won the OFSTED Good rating after just two years of being established. Hackney New Primary will share its parent school's dedication to giving its pupils a top class education with initiatives including a commitment to giving every child the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and having a longer school day for children to complete their homework, a scheme that is usually only offered in private schools.

Mr Johnson, said: "I'm delighted that this excellent site has been secured for Hackney New Primary, just across the road from its parent school. The new free school will give 400 more pupils the opportunity to have a top-class education as well as providing much-needed school places in the local area. All young Londoners, wherever they live in our city, should have access to the highest quality education, regardless of background and I am committed to securing more sites for new schools in the capital."

SOUND MOVE: Youngsters have plenty to shout about at The Hackney New Primary School.

Chair of Governors at Hackney New Primary School, Andreas Wesemann, said: "The Kingsland Road fire station is the ideal site for Hackney New Primary School given its close proximity to the secondary school and the local area it will serve in the future. We are excited to be able to work with our partners to design this site to accommodate the unique curricular requirements of the school, helping us to develop it as an outstanding place of learning for young children from all backgrounds."

This is the 14th site the Mayor has made available for free schools, and is part of his 2012 manifesto promise to use public assets to secure sites for ten free schools.

Free schools are playing a central role in the provision of much-needed school places across the capital as well as helping to raise London's education standards. London already has the highest number of free schools in the country – 107 out of a national total of 304. The Mayor has also secured sites for a new academy and a University Technical College.

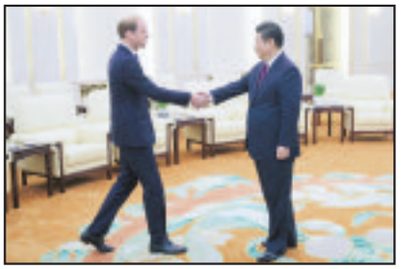
As London's population grows, there is increasing pressure on school places – places for 30,000 more are needed by 2016. The Mayor is continuing his work with the Department for Education, the London Legacy Development Corporation and the capital's boroughs to ensure London can meet this challenge.

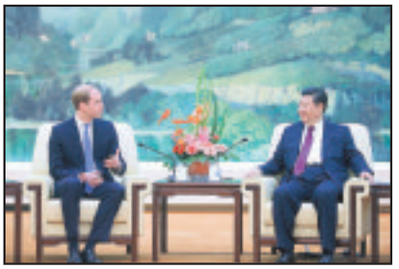
FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 46 PICK UP A FREE COPY Thursday, October 15th 2015

Royal Family braced for 'most important visit in a decade'





STATE VISIT: Prince William met the Chinese President on Xi Jinping's home soil last year. Now the Royal Family will play an integral part in welcoming the president to Britain later this month.

Chinese challenge

VIP GUESTS: President of China Xi Jinping and his wife Madame Peng Liyuan.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WILL Prince Charles be there? Will the Duchess of Cambridge be wearing red for luck and, if he goes, will Prince Harry have to shave off his beard first?

Buckingham Palace is fielding a barrage of questions as staff prepare for possibly the most important visit in 10 years next week, when the President of China Xi Jinping and his wife Madame Peng Liyuan come to stay for a few days.

Although the Palace says officially that the President "has accepted an invitation from Her Majesty The Queen to pay a State Visit to the United Kingdom from 20th to 23rd October" the invite has of course been arranged by Downing Street and it is one of those occasions when the Royal Family has been officially "requested" to be on parade.

Just as Prince William's visit to China last year was "on behalf of Her Majesty's Government", so too this very big bash is in essence a Whitehall production, orchestrated to be all pomp and tiaras because there is a lot of money at stake.

The last state visit by a leader of China to the UK was a decade ago. But in the space of 10 years, China has changed dramatically. Its economy now is over three times what it was when Hu Jintao visited in 2005. While the UK and most other developed countries suffered during the great financial crisis from 2008, China forged ahead.

And while Chinese growth today has slowed and is not in the double digits as it was during the golden years of the mid-2000s, it is still a solid seven per cent.

TURN TO PAGE 2

ACTION STATIONS: Staff at Buckingham Palace are braced to play their part in one of the highest profile state visits in which they have been involved for around ten years.

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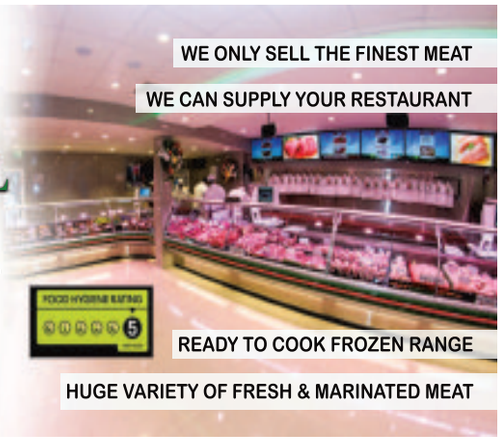

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ROYAL LONDON Buckingham Palace ready to greet Chinese President

FROM PAGE 1

"Perhaps the most pressing geopolitical issue for China when President Xi visits will be understanding Britain's place in the EU and what an exit might mean for relations with China," said Kerry Brown, associate fellow at the Chatham House Asia Programme, when analysing for the BBC the importance of this visit.

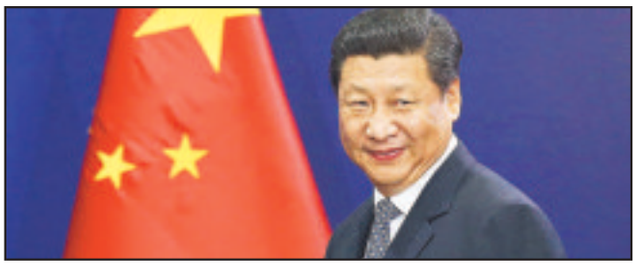
"Like it or not, China supports the unity the EU offers, at least financially and economically, and while it would never publicly state anything on this, it would almost certainly regard a UK exit negatively."

The UK is currently the "main investment destination" for Chinese companies, says Brown, receiving £3.3 billion last year. But the Chancellor has his eyes on a bigger pot, a potential Chinese investment of £18 billion which was discussed with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang last year, and it is for that reason that the Palace has been "requested" to hang out the flags.

Whilst everyone in Whitehall may be flustered about it, for The Queen a State Visit is as easy as falling off a log; Her Majesty has hosted more than 100 such occasions since she first welcomed King Gustaf of Sweden to the Palace back in 1954. In that time she has had the carpets Hoovered for almost every leading head of state, who have included some controversial characters such as Emperor Hirohito, President Mugabe, President Putin and, infamously, the Romanian tyrant Nicolae Ceausescu, who was later shot by firing squad following his country's revolution in 1989.

Each State Visit is subtly adapted to accommodate whatever foibles or customs the staying guest may have and in the case of the Chinese there is much to take into account.

For instance, it has been reported that the Duchess of Cambridge has been "requested" to attend the State Banquet, providing a special bonus at the do, which will be held in President Xi Jinping's honour. But will the first family's star turn be requested to make an entrance as the lady in red?



■ SPECIAL GUEST: China's President Xi Jinping.

Colour is a matter of great importance in Chinese custom; red is considered to be an auspicious sign of good luck, as is gold, but wearing a white or black frock may not go down so well.

Although black and white wear is the preferred wardrobe of Western fashionistas, in Chinese culture both are associated with mourning or loss and are therefore considered to be unlucky.

"White is the colour of death and is thus avoided," reports the helpful website Beijing Made Easy, whilst another Chinese blog on customs and superstitions reports that "black is never worn in celebrations or ceremonies; as black resembles dirt, it symbolizes evil, disaster, and sadness."

Cripes. I hope somebody has told David Cameron this. As a principal guest at the banquet, we don't want him blowing an eighteen billion deal by making a speech as the symbol of disaster and he may want to swap his usual black tie evening wear for something in scarlet.

More importantly, if Prince Harry is going to attend he may well have to be whisked off to the barber first. For despite being the bearer of good fortune with his red hair, beards are a no-no in Chinese customs; being unshaven is considered to bring bad luck as "it is associated with the working class and lowers status", and we can't have any of that proletarian lark, especially not around the head of a People's Republic.

Like all visiting heads of state, President Xi will be given the use of the Belgian Suite at the rear of the Palace, which is handy as it is painted yellow and in Chinese culture yellow is the colour of heaven, good luck all round. Also fortunately, it is situated on the ground floor and not the fourth floor – four is considered very unlucky by the Chinese as their word for four sounds similar to their word for death. No playing-through with the President at golf then. More good luck is promised at the State Banquet as the cutlery traditionally chosen for the occasion is solid gold. It will be laid out around the 160ft horseshoe-shaped table that takes six men three hours to assemble from its seven leaves and which will seat 170 guests for the dinner which always begins at 8.30 pm.

But the big burning question is will Prince Charles get a chair?

Now that's a tricky one and Whitehall will have been worrying about this for weeks. By rights, of course, the future king ought to be in attendance but Charles is best mates with the Dalai Lama, the exiled leader of Tibet with whom President Xi is not pals in the slightest.

Charles, wonderfully famous for his reported quip of 1997 when he was said to have described the Chinese hierarchy at the Hong Kong handover as "appalling old waxworks", skipped the last two State visits by Chinese premiers – missing the last one in 2005 because apparently his plane was late.

The scheduling of the royal flight back then may have been an arranged coincidence, organised in order to avoid any risk of Charles raising "the T-word".

But now, with George Osborne's eighteen bill riding on it, can the Government trust that the excellently-opinionated Prince of Wales won't mention the weather in Lhasa while passing the salt, let alone enquire after how things are going with the Falun Gong, the Taoist spiritual movement outlawed in China and whose London members are bound to be protesting outside the palace during the State visit?

The Dalai Lama recently spent nine days in the UK but he was not able to meet with his old friend Prince Charles, who was busy. According to reports running on Chinese news sites, "it was said that the Prince was trying to please China so he had to avoid Tibet's exiled spiritual leader".

Pleasing China was not previously known to be in the Prince's DNA, and this smacks of a Downing Street demand, so possibly Charles has been told to attend the banquet and behave himself and promise not to utter the T-word.

And no mention either of wildlife, rhino horn or ivory imports. And no saying "I'm terribly sorry Mr President, could you say that again? I can't hear you above the noise of the protestors across the road".

Protestors have proved an embarrassment during previous visits by Chinese leaders to the Palace. In 1999, the Met was accused of "heavy-handed" treatment when Free Tibet and Falun Gong activists were arrested and bundled away from waving their banned-in-China flags at President Jiang Zemin as he travelled in procession up The Mall with The Queen.

There were further protests in 2005 during President Jiang's visit, although cat-calling at those was countered by pro-China campaigners who spontaneously appeared in The Mall.

More angry demonstrations are expected next week, especially on Tuesday [October 20th] during the royal procession. The Tibet Society and Free Tibet are currently rallying their troops for a demo.

The Tibet Society is saying on its website, "All Tibet supporters are encouraged to attend Xi Jinping's official welcome and procession along The Mall and express solidarity for Tibet".

As Free Tibet's supporters include Sir Paul McCartney, Sting, Annie Lennox, David Bowie, Robbie Williams, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, REM, Bono, Beck, Radiohead and Patti Smith, this could get interesting, if not musical.

However, more likely than a protest gig might be an appearance in The Mall by Joanna Lumley, the passionately-dedicated supporter of Free Tibet. Whether President Xi would find that absolutely fabulous remains to be seen.

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

Duke to salute county cricket's champion side

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

October 13th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend receptions at Buckingham Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award.

■ **The Princess Royal** will present the 2015 Chatham House Prize at Plaisterers' Hall, One London Wall EC2.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Liveryman, the Worshipful Company of Masons, will present The Duke of Gloucester's Award for Excellence in Stonemasonry in St Stephen's Church, 39 Walbrook EC4.

■ **The Duchess of Cornwall** will present the Man Booker Prize 2015, Guildhall, Gresham Street.

October 14th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Honorary Life Member, the British Sub-Aqua Club, will present The Duke of Edinburgh Prize at Buckingham Palace.

■ ON DUTY: Prince Philip.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will hold a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Member of the Blue Seal Club, will attend a dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly W1.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Chancellor, Harper Adams University, will attend a reception at Rabobank International, Thames Court, Queenhithe EC4.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Colonel, The Blues and Royals, will attend a Blue Seal Club dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly W1.

■ **Princess Alexandra**, as Patron, Crisis UK, will attend a reception at St James's Palace.

October 15th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as President and Honorary Life Member, the In & Out (Naval and Military) Club, will attend the Trafalgar Dinner, St James's Square, SW1.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron and Twelfth Man, the Lord's Taverners, will present County Cricket Championship Medals at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Duchess of Cornwall** on behalf of The Queen, Patron The Royal Commonwealth Society, will hold a reception for winners of The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, Buckingham Palace.

October 19th

■ **Princess Alexandra**, as Royal Patron, UCL Cancer Institute Research Trust, will attend a Reception at St James's Palace.

October 20th

■ **The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will host a State Visit by The President of The People's Republic of China and Madame Peng Liyuan, who will stay at Buckingham Palace.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall to welcome Anne

ROYAL LONDON

Is a gong on menu at River Cottage?

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FOR the second time in a year Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage is to receive the accolade of an official visit from a high-profile royal – raising speculation that a gong may be in store for the TV chef in the New Year's Honours List.

'HFW', as syllable-savers call him, is to welcome another HRH when The Princess Royal goes to River Cottage in Devon later this month, following a visit by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall to the eco-garden loved by millions of TV viewers.

The Princess Royal is to meet staff and students at HFW's innovative cookery and chefs schools in her capacity as President of the City and Guilds Institute.

River Cottage schools have won much acclaim for their training programmes and this year its chef tutor Gary Richmond won the institute's highest award, the Prince Philip Medal, in honour of his commitment to helping the next generation of talent through apprenticeships and City and Guilds courses.

River Cottage recently launched a three-year traineeship and apprenticeship programme, through which HFW aims to train 250 people.

Members of the Royal Family have no official input in deciding who should be nominated for awards in The Queen's Birthday and New Year honours, but HFW's enthusiastic embrace of training programmes is likely to find favour with those who do, notably Whitehall mandarins who will welcome such a high-profile, and therefore publicity-valuable, supporter of the Government's promotion of apprenticeships.

It would not be to great astonishment therefore if the PR-obsessed Government was to shortly drop the Eton-educated HFW a note enquiring whether he might be agreeable to receiving a gong for "services to apprenticeships".

Unless HFW is of the school of Nigella Lawson, who apparently turned down an honour, an award would be seen widely as fitting – not least as the River Cottager stands out as somewhat overlooked among his celebrity chef peers. Jamie Oliver has received the MBE, Mary Berry and Delia Smith both had a CBE and OBEs have previously gone to Gary Rhodes and Heston Blumenthal.

Despite his good work for apprenticeships, HFW is more likely to be gonged for his pioneering campaigns for ecological and organic farming and small-holdings and his support for British fishermen – movements in which he has a strong ally in Prince Charles.

With almost 20 years of making environment-conscious TV series and 23 best-selling organic cookery books to his name, HFW has probably done more than any television celebrity to introduce a mass audience to the green concerns which the Prince of Wales holds dear and wishes to promote.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall may be in line for an honour.

Because of their shared beliefs and eco campaigns, it was little surprise when Charles and Camilla visited River Cottage in July last year to get first-hand tips on foraging and a tour of HFW's vegetable patch.

By all accounts, including the revealing press photographs of the occasion, the meeting of minds was relaxed and hilarious – with both Prince Charles and Camilla pictured in gales of laughter at the TV chef's quips.

However, for River Cottage to be granted a second official visit from a senior royal within 15 months is rather notable and is leading to conjecture that HFW may be heading for a knighthood in the New Year, elevating him to rank alongside Sir Gordon Ramsay, the chef and profanity specialist, who was knighted in 2006.

ROYAL VISITOR: Princess Anne is heading for River Cottage in Devon.

Sophie's appeal to help deliver the gift of sight

THE Countess of Wessex has spoken movingly of the plight of blind and visually-impaired people across the world.

Speaking as patron of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness to mark World Sight Day earlier this month, the Countess said that 39 million people have sight problems but that 80 per cent of blindness is preventable.

Sophie, who is also global ambassador for Vision 2020, a worldwide initiative aiming to eliminate avoidable blindness over the next five years, gave the poignant speech in Doha, as part of a four-day trip to Qatar with the sight-saving charity Orbis UK.

Addressing the Seeing Is Believing gala dinner, Sophie said: "I have seen sight being restored and I can promise you there are few things more rewarding in this world than seeing someone step from the dark into the light. There is no smile quite like the one that is returned from eyes that once more can see.

"Our aim to eradicate avoidable blindness is more than just a pipe dream. It is a tangible goal. In 2014, Orbis alone provided treatment to 6.1 million people thereby giving them the chance of education or employment. This all helps enormously when we talk about lifting countries out of poverty, because if you can see you can work, if you can see you can learn."

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

A nation of animal lovers? The jury's out...

Ruff justice: Paul explains why we need to give the dog a home

by Geoff Baker

THIS we now know to be a fact – that there are tens of thousands of people who are managing to live in the UK without having a heart.

They, the cruel and the callous, are responsible for the 47,500 dogs that the Dogs Trust recently calculated are thrown out onto the streets each year to starve and fend for themselves, scared, cold and confused.

Before we get into the grim details of that, let us consider this: in all of the thousands of years that man has kept dogs as pets and companions one truth remains repeatedly proven, that a dog's love and loyalty is never shaken. It is a constant, a given, there is no greater love than a dog's for its owner.

Imagine then the misery, the hideous pain of rejection, that 47,500 dogs feel every year when they are dumped and made homeless for having done nothing wrong except to have had the misfortune to be owned by the sort of people whose existence represents to me a convincing case for eugenics.

We are not entirely a nation of animal lovers, we are a nation with bad people among us. Last year the RSPCA dealt with 12,000 complaints of cruelty to animals, an alarming rise in reported incidents and, as the RSPCA says, "isn't it shocking that in 2014 so many people are still being deliberately cruel?"

But in this stinking mire of insensitivity some good souls remain and the best of them are being celebrated in the return of Paul O'Grady's *For The Love Of Dogs*, ITV's inspirational series which rightly salutes the greatest animal care sanctuary in the world, the pride of West London which is Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Battersea knows too much about cruelty to dogs, it sees it every day; the puppies that are left on The Tube in sealed plastic bags, the old dog thrown out with its jaws taped up so that it could not eat, the terrified puppy abandoned and left whimpering beneath a traffic cone, the list of indictments against our empty boast to be animal lovers is heart-breaking and endless.

Paul O'Grady, Battersea's much-admired ambassador, admits that he gets furious when he sees the cruelties and the staff and volunteers have to deal with daily.

"We had a dog in who'd had his vocal chords cut so that he didn't bark. I can't handle that, I get mad. You think, 'How could you do this to an animal?'"

For this new, fourth series of *For The Love Of Dogs* the filmmakers have thrown away the soft soap. This is a grittier, more upsetting but more real insight into the bleak world of the good people who have to cope with much, like pets made strays by shameful Londoners who throw them out because they are going on holiday and they simply cannot be bothered to pay for kennels or get a neighbour to feed them.

Many viewers will weep over the cruelties exposed during the programme's eight-week run, but that is good for us to see because seeing it might prick consciences and cause the Government to introduce the new, stricter dogs rules for which Battersea is lobbying.

"There's a few tears this series but people do need to see that, it's not Disneyland," says Paul. "You have to take the rough with the smooth otherwise it's not fair to the viewer if you don't tell the truth. We're showing what the staff go through on a daily basis.

"I did find it a hard series to do, I was going in every day and there was another dog who was seriously ill or had been abused or was just terrified of being in kennels and it's sad, it really is.

"There are some hard stories and sometimes there is just nothing that can be done and dogs do have to be put down, but it really is a last resort; everything else is tried first."

Like anyone who has a heart, Paul gets upset filming the series, most often going home emotional and fretting because of what he has seen.

"I'm terrible, every day," he admits. "People say to me, 'what a lovely job, you go in and play with puppies', but I do not. I go in and see some terrible things, we all do. It gets to us all, the crew as well. It's very sobering when you are with these poor animals and you see what they've been through. But at the same time it is hugely heart-warming to see what an incredible job the staff do down there.

■ **GRIPPING STUFF: Paul O'Grady salutes 'the greatest animal care sanctuary in the world', West London's celebrated Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.**

"But this series has been a difficult one for me because we've seen some dogs coming in dreadful states. I don't go home at 5pm and forget about them, I go home and worry. And then I start the plotting, 'Have I got room?' But I've already got five dogs, four of them rescue dogs and two of those from Battersea, and I can't have any more. And mine are all ill; two of them have got epilepsy, Olga's got cancer, Louis has got arthritis and an ulcer on his eye. And then there's Eddie, who thinks he's Napoleon.

■ **HELP: Bud needs a home.**

"So what I do is I try to get friends to take them instead. People avoid me now, they say, 'Ten minutes with him and you'll have a dog!' But one friend took a beautiful little white Maltese who had been found roaming the streets and another took one of the Labrador puppies."

IN its 150 years, Battersea has taken in more than three million dogs and cats.

Last year it cared for 5,034 dogs and reunited 700 hugely-grateful owners with their pets. At any one time, the centre of which The Queen is patron will be lovingly caring for 300 dogs looking for a new home.

Not all of the dogs who come to Battersea are the sad victims of cruelty. For many, Battersea is their owners' last resort, making giving up their pet even more heart-rending.

"You see the worst of people and the best of people at Battersea," says Paul. "Often it's the case that the owner dies and an old dog's brought in, usually full of ailments due to its age. Then you get people whose homes have been repossessed, they've been put into rented accommodation and the landlords won't let them have a dog.

"Then there are people who are having to work long hours now and they can't look after the dog. So it's not just a case of wilful neglect, they've had their hand forced, so they've had to bring their dog in and that's really sad because they are broken. It is heart-breaking."

But also there are the worn-out mothers of too many litters and the unwanted puppies dumped by the loathsome back-street breeders who now infest most areas of London and against whom Battersea has long been campaigning.

Ever since the Conservative Government unwisely abolished dog licensing in 1987, MPs and animal care authorities have lobbied for their return in order to regulate what is essentially now a rule-less free for all. Some headway towards the better treatment of animals will be made next April when compulsory micro-chipping of all dogs is made law, but Battersea commendably wants the Government to go further than that.

Each year in Britain around 560,000 puppies are born – but approximately 490,000 of them are bred by unlicensed, back-street breeders and Battersea is now lobbying for all households intending to breed at least two litters per year to be licensed.

The current slack rules on breeding are shocking – officially, you only need a licence if you intend to breed five litters in 12 months.

Given that the gestation period for a dog is an average of 63 days, it is a matter of outrage for many that thousands of dogs are forcibly kept pregnant for at least 315 days out of 365, their puppies taken from them again and again and again, up until such point as they are physically worn out – and when, typically, they are dumped for better people like Battersea's staff and volunteers to care for.

Battersea recently compiled a report on the dreadful state of dog licensing in the UK, which hopefully will shame both the Government and local authorities into pulling out their indolent fingers and commit to instituting stricter rules – and much stiffer penalties – on how we are allowed to treat dogs in Britain.

We all know that puppies are bred all over London, but do you know how many licensed breeders there are in the capital? According to Battersea's research, only 12.

There are none in Kensington and Chelsea, none in Westminster and, even more shockingly, none in the area of Battersea Dogs Home's own local authority, Wandsworth. And yet back-street breeders are allowed to force multiple litters and sell puppies all over the boroughs.

For three centuries now, since Battersea Dogs and Cats Home began, the better people of London have campaigned for our authorities to institute greater protection for the dogs of the capital who are mistreated, abused and exploited by this city's scum.

When will come the time when those in power finally act to defend the defenceless?

It is a burning question that *For The Love Of Dogs* now begs and those of us who want a better life for our best friends should support the campaign at *www.endbackstreetbreeding.org.uk*

But there can be a happy ending, as Paul O'Grady says.

"The highlight for me is always when a Battersea dog gets a home. When I go in and find that one of them has got a home I'm always over the moon. Because I'm secretly thinking, 'No-one's going to take this little fella, look at the state of him'. But then thankfully somebody does."

Just now at Battersea there is one such little fella, a six-year-old lurcher collie cross called Bud. He's been waiting for a new home for 325 days now. Let's hope that off the strength of this deservedly-award-winning programme he finally finds one.

■ **Paul O'Grady's For The Love Of Dogs** ITV, Thursday, 8.30pm

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Do it yourself and conjure a pudding fit for Christmas

NO matter how many pigs in blankets you've scoffed on Christmas Day, you can always make room for some pudding, can't you?

The Japanese say we have a separate stomach ("betsubara") for dessert, and it's never more true than on December 25, *writes Kate Whiting of the Press Association.*

In recent years, shops have battled to outdo one another to produce the most tempting Christmas pud on the planet – and it might seem much easier to pop one in your shopping basket than to make your own.

But old traditions die hard, and in the next few months, the heady scent of spice and sugar will be wafting around the nation's kitchens, as we get cooking our own.

Being a keen baker but a total novice when it comes to all festive fayre, I thought it was about time I rolled up my sleeves – and enrolled on a Christmas pudding masterclass at The Landmark London in Marylebone.

"The traditional time to make Christmas pudding is the 5th Sunday before Christmas – Stir-up Sunday [November 22, the last Sunday before advent] – but you can make them any time," says pastry chef, Pierre Rebuzzi.

On Stir-up Sunday, traditionally, each member of the family would have a turn stirring the 'plum pudding' (plums were another word for raisins pre-Victorian times) and make a wish.

Then there was the custom of hiding a silver sixpence in the pud, which would promise to bring wealth to whoever found it in their bowl later on.

For many years, Rebuzzi, who hails from Lyon, the food capital of France, has made around 500 Christmas puddings to serve at the hotel, so who better to take me through my paces to make my very first Christmas pud?

■ ALL YOU NEED: For The Landmark London's Christmas pudding

Keep it light

IT does seem a little strange to be taught how to make such a traditionally English dish by a Frenchman, but it turns out that Rebuzzi has a unique take on the old classic.

"As a French person, Christmas pudding is not something I traditionally eat, but the way I like my Christmas pudding is light and fruity," says the 30-year-old, who has been macerating his fruit for six weeks in a mix of rum, brandy, kirsch and lemon and orange juice. "I don't like it too hard or too flavourful of spices – I like something very light, because it's something you will eat after a big meal and you will not have much space!"

Rebuzzi uses just one spice – nutmeg – to flavour his pudding, although cinnamon, cloves and ginger are traditionally used too.

Mix it up

IT turns out that the Christmas pudding itself is quite quick and easy to make – but there are a whopping 22 different ingredients in Rebuzzi's version, which have all been 'prepared earlier', including the fruit that's been steeping for weeks.

All I need to do is mix them all up in the bowl, and grate the tart Granny Smith apple in too!

"Christmas pudding is actually a very basic mix to make, you just have to incorporate your dry items with your wet items, your nuts, your fruits, and mix everything properly," says Rebuzzi, warning me to "be very careful not to have patches of flour".

Full steam ahead

ONCE mixed, you squash the squishy mess into your pudding basin, cover with a layer of greaseproof paper and then another of aluminium foil, all tied up with string.

The time-consuming part, which I do at home, is to steam the pud for four hours in a big saucepan, making sure you keep the water topped up throughout.

Rebuzzi says the pudding will happily keep in the fridge or a cool, dry place 'til Christmas Day, when you'll need to steam it again for another hour, before serving with your favourite brandy butter or cream (he serves his with brandy custard, yum!).

Feed and flame it

TO ensure that boozy flavour, Rebuzzi suggests: "Every so often, maybe once a week, you can add a little bit more alcohol, like brandy, on top, and it will still keep a lot of flavour."

The piece de resistance is to flambe the pudding by pouring over a ladleful of brandy and setting light to it - naturellement. Make sure you perform this ritual safely though; you don't want Christmas Day to end in a flaming disaster.

...and relax

BACK at the Landmark, once our puddings are all wrapped up, we turn our attention to another Christmas classic – eggnog. Often considered to be an American cocktail, its origins apparently lie in East Anglia – and it gets a mention in Stella Gibbons' 1932 *Cold Comfort Farm* as a Hell's Angel, made with made with an egg, two ounces of brandy, a teaspoonful of cream, and some chips of ice – and served as breakfast.

Fancy giving it a whirl at home? Find the hotel's recipe below...

THE LANDMARK LONDON'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING

(*Makes three puddings in bowls 14cm in diameter*)

140g vegetable suet; 140g demerara sugar; 75g soft flour; 75g breadcrumbs; 30g lemon juice; 4g nutmeg; 1 pinch salt; 20g jam; 90ml Irish stout; 1 grated apple; 500g marinated fruit; 2 eggs; 200g walnuts

For the marinated fruit

100g dry apples; 100g raisins; 100g dry apricots; 100g dry cranberries; 100g golden raisins; 20g navy rum; 40ml brandy; 20ml kirsch; juice and zest of 1/2 an orange; juice and zest of 1/2 a lemon.

Marinate the dry fruit for two months, adding more liquor if necessary. Butter the pudding basins. Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl, ensuring that there are no pockets of flour or breadcrumbs. Pour the mixture into the buttered basins and cover with a circle of greaseproof paper and aluminium foil. Tie firmly with a string.

Put the basin in a pan, add boiling water to a quarter of the way up the basins, cover and steam for at least four hours. Top up with water if needed. The longer the mixture is steamed, the darker it will get. Steam for another hour before serving.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Kedgeree with soft boiled egg

Serves four

I'VE had lots of different versions of kedgeree and I suppose it's up for individual interpretations, as are most dishes.

Originally known as *khichri*, this Hindi dish has come a long way I'm sure since its creation, which was actually us by the way in India. It was a good way to use up fish and rice; but in the wrong hands, as you may well know, leftovers can become a bowl of slop.

Many versions are very dry and literally just badly smoked haddock mixed with rice and raw curry powder, like a bad haddock byriani. As with most dishes, good quality ingredients are crucial even in a dish that could be made from leftovers.

Smoked Finnan haddock makes the best kedgeree by far, as the smokiness travels through the sauce and rice to give that delicious savoury flavour. Don't be tempted to buy that disgusting yellow dyed smoked haddock fillet, as I'm doubtfull that it has ever been near a smoker and if it has, why on earth is it that shocking colour? If you fancy it, though, do replace a little haddock with hot smoked salmon fillet (braden rost), or smoked mackeral maybe, as this gives a good contrast in colours and flavour.

150g basmati rice; 1tsp cumin seeds; 1tsp onion seeds (nigela); 350g undyed smoked haddock fillet, lightly poached; 4 medium eggs

for the sauce

A good knob of butter; 2 medium shallots, peeled and finely chopped; 1 clove of garlic, peeled and crushed; a small piece of root ginger, peeled and finely grated or chopped; ¼ tsp ground turmeric; ¼ tsp ground cumin; ½ tsp curry powder; ½ tsp fennel seeds; a few curry leaves; pinch of saffron threads; 100ml fish stock (1/4 of a good-quality cube will do, dissolved in that amount of hot water); 400ml double cream; salt and freshly ground black pepper

First make the curry sauce: melt the butter in a heavy-based pan and gently cook the shallots, garlic and ginger in it without allowing them to colour. Add all the spices and cook for another minute to release their flavours. Add the fish stock, bring to the boil and allow it to reduce by half. Pour in the cream and simmer until reduced by half. Blend the sauce in a liquidiser or with a stick blender until smooth and strain it through a fine-meshed sieve. Adjust the seasoning, if necessary.

Rinse the rice a couple times in cold water to remove any starch and cook it in plenty of boiling salted water with the cumin and nigela seeds for about 12-15 minutes until just cooked. Briefly drain it in a colander and return it to a pan off the heat with a lid on. This allows the rice to steam dry and gives it a nice light fluffy texture.

To serve the kedgeree, soft boil the eggs for 4 minutes then run under the cold tap for a couple minutes so you can peel them. Re-heat the sauce and add the cooked smoked haddock. Put the rice into a bowl, spoon over the fish and sauce, then place an egg on each.

■ TUCK IN: Kedgeree with soft boiled egg.

Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews

CLASSY: Siobhan McCarthy did full justice to the songs of Leslie Bricusse in Pure Imagination.

TALENT TREASURE CHEST: The acclaimed Giles Terera, top, and Niall Sheehy, bottom, sing Bricusse.

Tony's Soul Night back

TONY Blackburn's legendary Soul Night, in which the DJ is joined on stage by artists including The Three Degrees, Shaun Escoffery, Lemar, Diane Shaw, Jaki Graham, Kenny Thomas and Odyssey, will take place on Tuesday, November 10 at London's Koko, Camden.

Tickets for this special evening are £30. From this a minimum of £12.50 will be donated to BBC Children In Need.

Blackburn said: "I think the annual soul night is well and truly here to stay. I can't wait to get back on that stage alongside this year's artists for some great performances, and it's all for a great cause!"

David Robey, BBC Radio London editor, said: "Tony's Soul Night was a huge success in the 1980s on BBC Radio London, so it feels appropriate to stage another Soul Night revival to coincide with the return of our radio station's name to BBC Radio London."

Very best of Bricusse brought to the stage

Pure Imagination ****

By NICKY SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

AFTER talking to the totally captivating Leslie Bricusse a few weeks before, I was very much looking forward to the press night of the musical celebrating his work.

Bricusse was joined by his long-time friend, Hollywood superstar Joan Collins, at the glitzy event, which also attracted the likes of former MP Gyles Brandreth and a host of stars including Gloria Hunniford and Eve Pollard.

Collins, who had earlier in the week learned of the tragic death of her sister Jackie from breast cancer, looked every bit the glamorous icon as she took to her seat in the centre of the auditorium for the opening night of the songcycle show presented at the St James Theatre.

With a back catalogue as extensive as Bricusse's, choosing the songs for this dazzling musical must have been no mean feet, but every choice was perfectly executed in a show which warmed the heart and filled the audience with a pure joy for the entire two hours.

The many memorable melodies and glorious lyrics were tightly strung together and presented with absolute flare by the five-strong cast of West End favourites – Dave Willetts, Siobhan McCarthy, Nial Sheehy, Julie Atherton and Giles Terera.

Willetts was suave, McCarthy was classy, Atherton adorable, Sheehy delightful and Terera tremendous as, from love duets to comic standards, we were swept along with song after classic song in this high tempo and well directed ensemble piece.

SUAVE: Dave Willetts.

It was wonderful to see the acclaimed Terera showing why Bricusse holds him in such high esteem, with some great renditions, which included his beautiful *What Kind of Fool Am I*.

Other highlights included Nial Sheehy's spine-tingling *This is the Moment* from the musical *Jekyl and Hyde* and the stirring London medley to close act two which also starred an authentic upright piano centre stage. This was only part of the very traditional music hall-cum-vaudeville feel of the show, which had an abundance of jazz hands and quips, to ensure a lightheartedness to even the more tempestuous numbers.

This joyful celebration seemed very fitting for Bricusse, who is well known as being one of the nicest men in showbiz and one of the most prolific songwriters of a generation.

Pure Imagination runs at the St James Theatre until October 17. More details can be found on their website *stjamestheatre.co.uk*

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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Frieze Arts Fair, Regent's Park
October 14 to 17
Established in 2003 by the founders of frieze magazine, Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, Frieze London is one of the world's leading art fairs and takes place each October in Regent's Park, London. Frieze London 2015 will feature two curated gallery sections, Live and Focus, plus the annual Frieze Projects programme curated by Nicola Lees. In 2012 Frieze established two further art fairs, Frieze New York, which takes place on Randall's Island, Manhattan each May, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern.Tickets hotline 0871 230 3452

Mary Coughlan
Saturday, October 17
Nell's Jazz & Blues Club, 7pm, tickets £20 advance. Irish jazz and folk singer and actress. She has received great accliam in her native country for her emotional and heartfelt jazzy musical renditions.

Sex Swing/Early Mammal
Saturday, October 17
The Lexington, Pentonville Rd, 8pm, tickets £7 advance. Noise rock band Sex Swing headline the Lexington, a newly-birthed project, comprising members of implicitly trusted yet sonically nefarious outfits Mugstar, Part Chimp and Dethscalator. 'A brilliantly visceral piece of repeato-industrialism. Primal bass thumps, they hit you in the chest as if they're belligerent and tangible. The Saxophone, the size of a 10-year-old, sounds half didgeridoo half horn of Gondor.'

Willie & The Bandits
Saturday, October 17
Borderline, Soho, 7.30pm.

William D Drake, Bill Pritchard and Bill Botting
Saturday, October 17
Union Chapel, Islington, noon to 2pm, FREE suggested donation £3.50. William D Drake, formerly of the Cardiacs, will lead you on a serpentine path through a landscape of memory and fantasy with music that's heart-felt, gutsy and absurd at turns. Bill Pritchard is the beloved cult singer songwriter who's recently resurfaced with a cracking new album. Bill Botting, previously of Allo Darling and Moustache of Insanity, his music has a country slant but an indie heart'

Johnny Marr
Tuesday, October 20
The Forum, 7.30pm. A founder member of The Smiths and Electronic, and an influential band member for everyone from The The to The Cribs. More than 30 years after Marr first committed his iconic guitar sound to record, he remains a diligent workaholic. He's been in the studio this summer putting the finishing touches to a live album – recorded on the last tour in Manchester, Glasgow, and Cardiff.

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre
To November 7
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. www.importanceofearnest.com

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre
To October 31
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive 12-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern
Until January 24, 2016
Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art.
This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe. In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex. Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so. The Brazilian military dictatorship of the 1960s is confronted in Marcello Nitsche's giant flyswatter, ready and waiting to squish the tyrannical regime. Pop stars from western magazines are reimagined as the friends of Romanian artist Cornel Brudaşcu in his exquisite paintings. Everywhere you turn, the work is assessing the social, cultural and political terrain in which it was created. Women artists have been most notably omitted from the canon of pop art, so it's reassuring that the two female curators have made sure to rebalance the status quo.

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■ **ROAR TALENT: Hand to Mouth Theatre present The Dragon's Tale at the Lyric, Hammersmith.**

Traditional trademark family show

AS part of the Lyric Hammersmith's children's season, Hand To Mouth Theatre will once again again perform one of their trademark family shows in the studio.

The company, which has been performing at the Lyric for over 25 years, will this year present *The Dragon's Tale* on October 17.

Based in Hampshire, the company prides itself on its high quality puppetry and artists Martin Bridle and Su Eaton bring more than 30 years' experience of providing innovative and delightful theatre to both schools and festivals.

Martin said the new show was an original and whimsical reinterpretation of George and the dragon.

"The thing that makes this show quite memorable is that we always have live music. Su's a musician as well as an actor. She's playing the character of a travelling musician and her partner is a dragon who operates a travelling puppet show. The story is about how they came to be where they are; sort of reluctantly travelling the land."

The story is told in a series of flashbacks by the ageing dragon himself and his troupe of glove puppets. Musical accompaniment is provided by the equally world-weary damsel in distress playing the hurdy-gurdy.

Martin added: "The main instrument Su is playing is the hurdy-gurdy which is a mechanical violin and so it's got a very interesting sound to the show."

Children will love the knockabout nonsense and adults will appreciate the hidden layer about growing old together. The show lasts 45 minutes and is suitable for a family audience.

■ For more information visit the website *lyric.co.uk*

Mel: from bake-off to dance-off!

■ **TOP MARKS: Mel Giedroyc is to present Strictly Come Dancing's live UK tour.**

TICKETS for the 2016 *Strictly Come Dancing* Live UK Tour went on sale last week, swiftly followed by the announcement of a brand new tour host – star of *The Great British Bake Off* and Strictly super fan, Mel Giedroyc.

Mel will bring her hugely popular sense of humour and passion for all things Strictly to the live tour for the first time.

She said: "I've been a huge fan of *Strictly Come Dancing* for many years, so am thrilled to be hosting the 2016 UK live tour.

"The celebrity dancers and their professional partners will make for a sequin-tacular time on stage. Who knows, I might even shake a leg myself – as long as Strictly provide me with a surgical corset!"

Mel will be joined by the *Strictly Come Dancing* judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli, who will reunite for the 2016 tour. Craig will also direct the live event for the sixth successive year.

BBC One's popular light entertainment show has just returned to our TV screens for an exciting new series, with another amazing line-up of famous faces from the worlds of show business, music, sport and television.

Featuring many of the celebrities and professional dancers from the star-studded 13th series, the super-sized spectacular live arena tour will bring them back onto the dance floor to recreate their most popular routines from the TV series. Details of celebrities and professional dancers appearing on tour will be announced over the next few months.

Len, Craig and Bruno will be providing their invaluable wisdom, advice and scores at the end of each performance. But as well as competing for the judges' scores, the celebrities and their dance partners will also be battling to win votes from the arena audiences, who can text vote via their mobile phones and will ultimately have the power to decide who will win the prized Glitterball Trophy at the end of each performance.

The 30-show spectacular will open at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham on January 22 before visiting the biggest entertainment venues across the country.

The tour will finish in London, firstly at the SSE Arena in Wembley, before the grand finale at the O2, London on Valentine's Day.

For more details on the tour you can visit the show's website *strictlycomedancinglive.com*

Talk Of The Town

STAR GUEST: Les Miserables favourite Frances Ruffelle will sing at this year's Wilma Awards.

AFTER the hugely successful launch of the Wilma Awards in 2014, theatre blogger West End Wilma is to hold the star-studded event again this year and the *London Weekly News* is proud to announce that it is sponsoring the award for the Best Vocal Performance. **Nicky Sweetland** was lucky enough to be invited to have tea with Wilma to chat about how the awards came about

Why we just can't wait for this year's Wilma awards

WILMA charts her rise to fame: "I'd done a cabaret show called *Wilma and Friends* and it was a bit of fun, so I thought about another and then thought why don't I do an awards?"

With 13,500 followers on Twitter Wilma is everyone's favourite nana in the land of theatre among both performers and audiences. She often gets stopped for selfies and autographs when attending events and even has her own tote bags, which she gives to her most devoted stagey fans.

She explained how the awards show would reflect her growing following, but was also keen to recognise performers and shows which were sometimes overlooked by others. The glittering party is therefore different to many, with some interesting and innovative awards which set them apart from your average gong giving.

Wilma said: "I wanted to start from scratch and put in my own categories, like most underrated West End show. This year I've put in best vocal performance and things that you just don't see everywhere, like the rising star, which is nice."

The ceremony will take place at the Hippodrome casino just off Leicester Square and will be hosted by cabaret star Tim McArthur. Tim will open the show with a song before the dazzling proceedings commence and won't be the only West End performer doing a turn. Wilma has enlisted some of her other high-profile friends, including *Wicked* stars Gina Beck, Ashleigh Gray and Oliver Savile alongside *Les Miserables* great Frances Ruffelle and *X-Factor* finalist Marcus Collins, who is now starring in *Kinky Boots* at the Adelphi Theatre.

The award for best vocal performance, sponsored by the *London Weekly News*, is possibly one of the most hotly contested categories, with West End big hitter Gina Beck fighting it out with star of *Memphis* Beverley Knight, and *Kinky Boots* leading man Killian Donnelly.

Voting is closed but if you would like to be part of this event there are still a few tickets available from *www.hippodromecasino.com/whatson/west-end-wilma-theatre-awards*

HERE'S WILMA: London Weekly News theatre critic Nickly Sweetland meets theatreland blogger West End Wilma.

STAR TURNS: Killian Donnelly, Beverley Knight and Gina Beck.

Elf service just what doctor ordered to improve nation's heart condition

WITHOUT a doubt, this year's festive must-see show is going to be the heart-warming extravaganza, *Elf*, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices.

The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

Ben took some time off from rehearsals to talk to me about the show. His passion for the project was infectious as he told me about his love for the film and the character Buddy the Elf, who spends his early life growing up in Santa's workshops.

"It's such a classic. It's one of those films that makes you feel all gooey and warm and Chrsitmassy inside. That's kind of one of the things that scared me the most about doing it because I knew I had a lot to stand up to.

"People love it so much and love Will Ferrell so much. I didn't want to do an impression or move so far away that people didn't recognise Buddy. It was quite a difficult one, actually."

CHRISTMAS GEM: Ben Forster says he's very proud of the festive super-show, Elf, which opens in the West End next month.

The musical ran on Broadway for both the 2010/11 and the 2012/13 festive seasons and broke box office records three times at the Hirschfeld as well as being nominated for a Drama League award.

London audiences are very different to those across the pond however, and Ben explains how the show has been adapted to suit a very British sense of humour.

"There's a few little extra bits getting added in. They're making a few bits a bit bigger and cutting some of the bits we were kind of experimenting on. I think that was the good thing about working at Plymouth and Dublin. We got to experiment and it was good. It was like a big preview session so I feel like we all got a really good understanding of the piece."

Ben told me: "It's written for a Broadway audience, so the kind of sense of humour is just different. Working out what people thought was funny and what kind of went over people's heads was quite important and I think that will stand us in good stead for the West End."

Although the comedy may have some modifications, the fabulously glitzy soundtrack is the same, and it's something we can all look forward to. Ben can't wait to perform it again and to share the score with the London audiences.

"It needs to feel like this big fabulous musical and I think it does. I'm really proud of it."

"It's very big band Broadway sounding. The Christmas music just gets you. It still gets me every time I hear the overture or every time I hear one of the songs. It just makes my heart beat because it just, for some reason, taps into the emotions. It's so beautifully written and so beautifully orchestrated, it's brilliant."

Ben's co-star Kimberley Walsh is no stranger to the West End stage and has most recently shared success in a concert version of the Cy Coleman classic musical *Sweet Charity* alongside Denise Van Outen and Kerry Ellis. Ben is really enjoying working with the pop star again and tells me about how she tackles the rehearsals.

"She's gorgeous, I've known Kimberley for years. She is so down to earth and lovely and really loves what she does. She's really passionate about singing and theatre and that really comes across. She's really dedicated and in there with everyone at the rehearsal."

Since winning ITV's *Search for a Superstar* in 2012, Ben has enjoyed a hugely successful and varied career, including most recently playing Brad in the revival of *The Rocky Horror Show* with its creator Richard O'Brien at the Playhouse Theatre, which was broadcast in cinemas across the country just a few weeks ago.

Ben has also landed one of the West End's most highly acclaimed roles as the Phantom in the Andrew Lloyd Webber epic musical at Her Majesty's Theatre, which he will start immediately after the run of *Elf*. Ben is humble and grateful for the opportunity.

"It's so iconic and amazing. Just to have the chance to put my stamp onto it is a real dream come true. It's the first thing I ever saw in the West End. It was one of the main things that inspired me to do what I do and to get to play it is amazing. I still can't really believe it's going to happen."

Elf will open with a charity gala on November 5, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society. If you need any more incentive to buy a ticket, with some now released at the much more affordable price of £30 each, Ben has a very convincing pitch

"All I can say is, the show is Christmas. If you want to feel Christmassy and want to get into the Christmas spirit of it, nothing is going to deliver like *Elf*. It is the most Christmas you can pack into two and a bit hours. If you want to get in the mood I would say come and see *Elf*."

Elf will play at the newly refurbished Dominion Theatre from November 5 to January 2. For more details visit the show's website *elfthemusical.co.uk*

Classified

Post: London Weekly News, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, SE20 7TS
Email: candy.brown@slp.co.uk **Telephone:** 0208 768 4919

Deaths

MRS LILLA COULSON
died peacefully on
the 15th September 2015, aged 95.
Funeral Service 15th October 2015 at
St Peter's Church, SW6 7JS at 10am.
She will be sadly missed.

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75 Cardross Street London W6 0DP 2015/04579/VAR
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2013/05569/FUL granted 10th April 2014 to allow further excavation of the basement to form a rear lightwell.

71 Gowan Avenue London SW6 6RH 2015/04668/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 4no solar panels above the main flat roof at roof level; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; replacement of existing windows with new windows at ground and first floor level, to the front and rear elevation; installation of new sliding doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

162 Goldhawk Road London W12 8HL 2015/04310/FUL
Conversion of existing building from Class (B1) offices to three one bedroom self contained flats and one two bedroom flat self contained flat; remove existing front lightwell and steps; erection of a single storey side extension at lower ground floor level.

6 Petley Road London W6 9ST 2015/04240/FUL
Installation of a green painted metal bike storage unit in the front garden of the property.

8 Maclise Road London W14 0PR 2015/04407/FUL
Installation of a new aluminium framed glazed shopfront including an ATM machine; relocation of front entrance door and existing extract fan; and modification of existing security roller shutter to allow 24hr use of the ATM.

8 Maclise Road London W14 0PR 2015/04408/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM fascia surround and an internally illuminated fascia sign above the ATM to the front elevation.

2 Lochaline Street London W6 9SH 2015/04556/VAR
Variation of condition 12 and removal of condition 13 of planning permission ref: 2014/00735/FUL granted 22nd April 2014 to allow each of the two permitted dwellings to apply for one residential parking permit per dwelling.

Rear Of 740 - 742 Fulham Road London SW6 5SF 2015/04634/FUL
Demolition of 6no garages at the rear of 740 - 742 Fulham Road and redevelopment of the site to include erection of part two, part three storey extension at ground, first and second floor level for the creation of 1 x three bedroom, 1 x two bedroom and 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level.

67 Harwood Road London SW6 4QL 2015/04655/FUL
Erection of additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of railings around flat roof at third floor level in connection with its use as a terrace, in connection with the conversion of the ground, first, second and third floor levels from three self contained flats to two self contained flats.

17 Campana Road London SW6 4AS 2015/04639/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of the basement; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of a glazed panel to ground and first floor levels to replace existing door and window to rear elevation; installation of a glass door to rear elevation at ground floor level.

101 Brook Green London W6 7BD 2015/04597/TPO
Felling of a Sycamore tree (T1) in the front garden subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/211/7/95.

782 Fulham Road London SW6 5SL 2015/04576/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at third floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing window to the side of rear back addition at second floor level; installation of a new shopfront; partial demolition of the single storey back addition to form new openings to include the installation of new doors and window; installation of new access gates and the formation of a refuse storage at ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 2no rooflights above the roof of single storey back addition.

39A Dunraven Road London W12 7QZ 2015/04581/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation; retention of use of the second floor level as a one bedroom self-contained residential flat.

2 Caxton Road London W12 8AJ 2015/04478/FUL
Change of use of the ground floor premises from retail (Class A1) into a one bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); installation of new French doors to replace the existing window at ground floor level to the rear elevation; bricking up of existing door to the rear and existing window to the side of single storey back addition; alterations to existing shopfront to include the installation of new opaque window and clear windows.

52 Brook Green London W6 7BJ 2015/03099/FUL
Alterations and extensions to existing dwellinghouse including the erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level, extension of existing basement beneath the existing front garden area to create a utility/shower room, and provision of terraced planting and soft landscaping to front garden area at ground floor level, replacement of existing windows with double glazed sash windows at the front and rear elevation of the property; installation of new French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing at first floor level, replacement of existing French doors with new doors and existing window with French doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level and installation of new external steps from upper ground to garden level at the rear of the property; installation of a new rooflight in the rear roofslope; relocation and replacement of existing rooflight in the front and rear roofslope; erection of new railings and metal gate at the front of the property (Amended description).

9 Bryony Road London W12 0SR 2015/04578/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a part one part two storey extension at ground and first floor level to the rear of the main building; erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building; and installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope and one rooflight in the side roofslope;

70 Waterford Road London SW6 2DR 2015/04501/FUL
Erection of a single dormer window to replace the existing dormers in the front roof slope.

2A Lochaline Street London W6 9SH 2015/04557/VAR
Variation of condition 21 and removal of condition 22 of planning permission ref: 2014/00191/FUL granted 24th January 2014 to allow each of the two permitted dwellings to apply for one residential parking permit per dwelling.

Flat Ground Floor 192 Munster Road London SW6 6AU 2015/04594/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

99B Fulham Palace Road London W6 8JA 2015/04553/FUL
Change of use from Class A2 financial to a mini taxi control office (Class Sui Generis).

176 - 182 Goldhawk Road London W12 9NS 2015/04481/VAR
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2013/00523/FUL granted 8th August 2014 for the erection of a four storey mixed use development with retail (Class A1) at ground floor level and 15 flats at first, second and third floor levels, following demolition of the existing petrol filling station and flats. Amendment relates to provision of additional services space at ground floor for the retail area; reconfiguration to the external fire escape serving flats; reconfiguration and relocation of the Residential Bin and Bike stores; incoming services / plant area added to rear of building in service yard; Lift core, Lift, stairs and common entrance reconfigured; Reconfiguration of the external fire escape serving flats; Window splays adjusted in bedroom 2 of flats 5, 10 and 15; Green roof added to bike / bin stores and new incoming services area; Removal of generating plant from roof and lift extended to roof level; Condenser units added to main roof and solar panels adjusted; Battery back-up for lift in lieu of standby generator supply; Internal reconfiguration of flat layouts.

The Piper Centre 50 Carnwath Road London SW6 3EG 2015/04580/FUL
Replace six externally mounted ventilation grilles on the Carnwath Road elevation and replacement with six new windows.

48 Ongar Road London SW6 1SJ 2015/04586/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level and formation of terrace to front elevation at new roof level; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of obscured glazing around flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a terrace.

28 Perrers Road London W6 0EZ 2015/04622/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

Belushi's And St Christopher's Hammersmith Broadway London W6 7AB 2015/04593/FUL
Use of an area of public highway measuring 3.0 metres by 2.4 metres for the placing of three tables and six chairs between the hours of 08:00 and 22:00, in connection with the use of Belushi's.

10 Dawes Road London SW6 7EN 2015/04239/FUL
Continued use of ground floor and basement as a Mini-Cab control office (Class Sui Generis).

2 Luxemburg Gardens London W6 7EA 2015/04503/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of four solar panels on the roof.

Site At Junction Of Western Avenue And Old Oak Road London 2015/02231/FUL
Redevelopment of the former Savoy Cinema site by the erection of a part 8 storey, part 7 storey, part 3 storey building (over 2 basement floors), to provide 320 rooms of student accommodation, including ancillary cafe, cycle and refuse storage and hard and soft landscape. (NB: REVISED PROPOSAL, Development has been amended to reduce bulk and scale of building)

8 Mylne Close London W6 9TE 2015/04670/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; infilling of the roof terrace and installation of new sliding doors at first floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 2no windows in the front roofslope; replacement of existing windows with double glazed windows at first and second floor level, to the front and rear elevation.

209 Hammersmith Grove London W6 0NP 2015/04633/FUL
Erection of an infill extension at lower ground floor level to the front of the property; installation of a new door to replace the existing window at lower ground floor level to the side of the front external staircase.

12 Rosaville Road London SW6 7BL 2015/04620/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of 1no window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Barons Court Station Gliddon Road London W14 9EA 2015/04574/LBC
Removal of two brick walls and WC in between two retail units within Barons Court Station to form a larger retail unit at ground floor level; installation of a three metre beam onto residual masonry wall at first floor level; removal of the mezzanine floor; associated internal alterations.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

8 Maclise Road London W14 0PR 2015/04407/FUL
Installation of a new aluminium framed glazed shopfront including an ATM machine; relocation of front entrance door and existing extract fan; and modification of existing security roller shutter to allow 24hr use of the ATM.

8 Maclise Road London W14 0PR 2015/04408/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM fascia surround and an internally illuminated fascia sign above the ATM to the front elevation.

10 Dawes Road London SW6 7EN 2015/04239/FUL
Continued use of ground floor and basement as a Mini-Cab control office (Class Sui Generis).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 1st November 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

58 - 76 Willow Vale London W12 0PB 2015/04568/VAR
I give notice that Willow Vale Innovations Limited is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of Condition 2, 17 and 26 to include additional drawings; removal of Condition 17 as on-site car parking provision to be removed Planning Permission 2013/00063/FUL granted 07.03.2014.

Building To The Rear 70 Sedgeford Road London 2015/04490/FUL
I give notice that **Mr Mohammed Bhatti** is applying to **HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a single storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse together with the erection of external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear, following the demolition of existing single storey garages; formation of a car parking space for one vehicle and associated landscaping.

114 Sherbrooke Road London SW6 7QN 2015/04617/FUL
I give notice that **Mr & Mrs Philip Moore** is applying to **HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; alterations to the side of single storey back addition to include installation of French doors and windows to replace the existing windows; installation of 1no rooflight over the flat roof of single storey back addition.

Fulham Park House 1A Chesilton Road London SW6 5AA 2015/04485/FUL
I give notice that **Lambert Pressland Ltd** is applying to **HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an extension at first floor level; alterations to the fenestration at first floor level to the south eastern and south western elevation including the formation of roof terraces to the south eastern elevation; alterations to the south western fenestration at ground floor level to include installation of new garage door, entrance gate, canopy and windows to replace the existing doors and windows; Change of use of first floor from offices (Class B1) into 3 x one bedroom, 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3).

775 Fulham Road London SW6 5HA 2015/04595/VAR
I give notice that **Mrs Aiste Katasanoviene** is applying to **HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of Conditions 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 of planning permission reference: 2015/01113/FUL granted 1st March 2015 for the "Change of use of ground floor level from retail (Class A1) into dentist (Class D1); installation of a new shopfront." Alterations proposed are to allow the installation of an air condenser unit on the flat roof of the back addition at first floor level; installation of a sounds system within the dental practice to play low level background music; alteration to the design of the shopfront by removing the aluminium frame structure and replacing with clear glass panels, and bringing forward entrance door to align with shopfront; and installation of internal security shutters to all windows.

Site At Junction Of Western Avenue And Old Oak Road London 2015/02231/FUL
I give notice that Mr Simon Owen is applying to **HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** for planning permission to carry out the following development: Redevelopment of the former Savoy Cinema site by the erection of a part 8 storey, part 7 storey, part 3 storey building (over 2 basement floors), to provide 320 rooms of student accommodation, including ancillary cafe, cycle and refuse storage and hard and soft landscape. (NB: REVISED PROPOSAL, Development has been amended to reduce bulk and scale of building) The proposal constitutes a major development.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **1st November 2015**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online

Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Public Notices

Tel: 020 8768 4939
e-mail: classified@slp.co.uk
www.southlondon-today.co.uk

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(RAVENSCOURT PARK AND BISHOP'S PARK FIREWORKS DISPLAYS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that to prevent the likelihood of danger to the public and to prevent the roads listed in the schedules to this notice becoming thronged or obstructed it intends to make an Order the effect of which would be to impose restrictions on vehicular traffic as detailed in the schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this notice.
2. The Order would come into operation on the 6th Novemeber 2015 and will be in force for a maximum of 18 months.
3. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical and for any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes, the execution of the event, and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

Dated this 25th day of September 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Schedule 1

The following restrictions will apply from 5pm to 10pm on the 7th November 2015 and from 5pm to 10pm on the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display.

(a) RAVENSCOURT GARDENS, closed, from its junction with Ravenscourt Park to its junction with Goldhawk Road. (No alternative route available).
(b) RAVENSCOURT PARK, closed, from its junction with King Street to its northern extremity. (No alternative route available).
(c) RAVENSCOURT ROAD, closed, between the junction with King Street and 19 Ravenscourt Road. (No alternative route available).
(d) RAVENSCOURT AVENUE, closed from its junction with King Street to the Ravenscourt Park entrance (No alternative route available).
(e) HAMLET GARDENS, closed at the junction with Ravenscourt (diversion via Westcroft Square on to Hamlet Gardens)

Schedule 2

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the lengths of road below from 5pm to 10pm on the 7th November 2015 and 5pm to 10pm on the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display.

(a) KING STREET, the north side, from its junction with Dalling Road to its junction with the north to south arm of Hamlet Gardens.
(b) PADDENSWICK ROAD, the south-west side, from its junction with Goldhawk Road to a point opposite the northern kerb-line of Dorville Crescent.
(c) GOLDHAWK ROAD, the east side, from a point 16.00 metres north of the northern kerb-line of Ravenscourt Gardens to a point 10.00 metres south of the southern kerb-line of Ravenscourt Gardens.

Schedule 3

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the length of road below from 9am on the 2nd November 2015 to 5pm on the 12th November 2015 and from 9am on the fifth calendar day prior to the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display to 5pm on the fifth calendar day after that event.
RAVENSCOURT PARK, from the northern party wall of Ravenscourt Park Hospital and No. 20 Ravenscourt Park to a point 62.00 metres south of that party wall.

Schedule 4

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the length of road below from 9am on the 1st November 2015 to 5pm on the 11th November 2015 and from 9am on the fifth calendar day prior to the day of the 2016 Bishop's Park Fireworks Display to 5pm on the fifth calendar day after that event.
STEVENAGE ROAD, the west side, between its meeting point with Bishop's Park Road to its junction with Doneraile Street.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BROOMHOUSE ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works in Broomhouse Road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Broomhouse Road, between it's junction with New King's Road and No. 12 Broomhouse Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via New King's Road, Linver Road and Hurlingham Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday, 19th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 19th October 2015 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(EFFIE PLACE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works in Effie Place, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a Effie Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Miscellaneous No. 1939083

UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES LAW
Office of Titles
PO Box 494
Kingston, Jamaica

Whereas I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of Paisley Pen in the Parish of Clarendon being the Lot numbered Forty-two (42) on the plan of part of Paisley Pen aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on the 19th day of June 1973 if the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the said plan and being the land registered at Volume 1097, Folio 303 of the Register Book of Title in the name of OSBORNE BARNETT - HAS BEEN LOST:-

I hereby give notice that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof.

S. PORTEOUS
Senior Deputy Registrar of Titles

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application For Grant of Premises Licence

E IN I Limited, has applied to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a Premises Licence for the premises at Flat 5, 32 Woodstock Grove, London W12 8LE, known as Eat In Italy, for the following licensable activities to be carried on, on or off the premises: Sell by Retail of Alcohol - Online Sale, Monday to Sunday 00:00 to 00:00.

Anyone wishing to make representation about this application must give notice in writing specifying the grounds of representation to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, FOA: Licensing Section, 5th Floor town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU, to be received by 12th November 2015, not to be less than 28 days from the date of the application. Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and may be prosecuted by this authority where on summary conviction you will be liable to a fine of £5,000.

Persons making representations will be invited to attend in person a public hearing before a committee of the Council.

Fulham, Environmental Department Reception
3rd Floor, Town Hall Extension
King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU

Application For Grant of Premises Licence

Paxton & Whitfield Ltd, of 22 Cale Street, Chelsea Green, London SW3 3QU has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the Grant of a Premises Licence for the Sale of Alcohol on and off the premises during the hours 08:00-17:00 Monday to Saturday and 10:00-17:00 Sunday for the premises Paxton & Whitfield Ltd, situated at 22 Cale Street, Chelsea Green, London SW3 3QU.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx or at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW, tel: 020 7341 5152, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the licensing authority at the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 3rd November 2015. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

PLACE YOUR PREMISES LICENCE WITH US FOR ONLY £112 plus VAT

Call Candy

020 8768 4919

Deadline is Friday at 3pm

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.
3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.
4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.
5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.
8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.
11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.
12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.
13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.
(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.
(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.
14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.
15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.
16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.
Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.
Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.
Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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The Handyperson will deliver a reliable service to a high standard to older people and people with disabilities in Lambeth. A van is provided, full clean driving licence required. Jobs include fitting smoke alarms, grab rails, bathroom accessories, shelves and doors, replacing curtain rails and assembling furniture.

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020 7346 6800

Candidates invited to interview will be expected to provide proof of their eligibility to be employed in the UK. An enhanced DBS disclosure certificate will be required from the successful candidate.

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Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at **sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk**

Dinner snub is insult to greats

FORTY years ago this week Queens Park Rangers were riding high at the top of the first division – the equivalent of today's Premier League – and setting new club records that still stand to this day.

The Hoops had just crushed Everton 5-0 at Loftus Road to clinch a Merseyside double, having already beaten Liverpool 2-0 (their first-ever victory over the Anfield club), won 5-1 at champions Derby County and seen off Manchester United in west London. Manchester City and Arsenal would be sent packing in the new year.

At the end of a brilliant, unforgettable season QPR were within 13 minutes of lifting the championship . . . until Liverpool came from behind to win their final game at Wolves and pip them to the title by just one point.

Magnificent

It was still a magnificent achievement by manager Dave Sexton and his team, who qualified for Europe for the first time.

Those heroes of 1975-76, inspired by the artistry of Stan Bowles, the leadership of England skipper Gerry Francis, the wing wizardry of Dave Thomas, the goals of Don Givens and goalkeeping colossus Phil Parkes, will never be forgotten by R's fans of a certain vintage, who can now only dream of seeing their favourites challenge so strongly for the ultimate prize in domestic football.

All of which makes the news that the club has had to cancel plans to honour the 'Boys of 76' with a tribute gala dinner a big, puzzling disappointment and, frankly, an insult to the greatest team in R's history.

QPR announced on their website that "due to a lack of demand" their dinner scheduled for October 24 has been scrapped. Instead, the surviving members of that celebrated squad of legends will join the current team at their end-of-season awards event.

Maybe nostalgia has gone out of fashion in W12, or the club didn't do a great job of publicising the function, which would be difficult to believe given the power of social media to instantly spread the word to the masses?

Then again, perhaps after 40 years of yo-yoing between the top two divisions and suffering the pain of their second relegation from the Premier League in three years, today's fans are not in the mood to toast the heroes of yesteryear, and view them as a solemn reminder of the years of failure and mismanagement that have followed?

It's a sad state of affairs, though, when what should be the most revered team in QPR's history won't receive the special tribute dinner it so richly deserves.

Meanwhile, it's back to reality. After the international break, R's resume at Birmingham City this Saturday, before Sheffield Wednesday visit Loftus Road next Tuesday (20th). The Blues have the best away record in the Championship, including three wins and no defeats, but they have already lost two and drawn one of their five home league games this season.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, October 17
CHELSEA v Aston Villa, 3.00
Birmingham City v QPR, 3.00
Middlesbrough v FULHAM, 3.00
Tuesday, October 20
Dynamo Kiev v CHELSEA (Champions League), 7.45
QPR v Sheffield Wednesday, 7.45
Wednesday, October 21
FULHAM v Leeds United, 7.45

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

CAPTAIN Fantastic Gerry Francis

Continued from back page

"We put together some really good moves in the first-half and obviously scored a few of them. But getting a clean sheet was pleasing as well, because we targeted that beforehand after conceding too many goals of late.

"We could have scored a lot more goals but it was great for Malakai to get his first U18s goal and for George McEachran to make his youth team debut."

Young Blues face Fulham away at Motspur Park on Saturday (11.00am).

FRESH from wrapping up the Women's Super League title, Chelsea Ladies continue their season in the Champions League.

They faced Glasgow City at home and won 1-0 on Wednesday of last week and know that they are in for a rough ride in the return leg on Thursday. It's their first foray into Europe's top club tournament and 'Little Messi' Fran Kirby's wonder strike is all that separates the sides.

Skipper for the night Gilly Flaherty said: "It was a tough game but we'll learn from it. It was our first Champions League game and we got the win, which is the important thing, and a clean sheet as well.

"We watched Glasgow play against Hibernian and it's a different standard of football in the Scottish league compared to our division but they were probably one of the best defensive sides we've come up against. They were so organised and compact, hard to break down."

EX-Pimlico Academy student Tammy Abraham continues his remarkable Chelsea and England journey. Abraham scored for the England U19s as they beat Finland 1-0 in a European Championship qualifier on Saturday.

Substitute Abraham came off the bench on 60 minutes and scored the decisive goal six minutes later. His club-mate Dominic Solanke, who is now on loan to with Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem, and skipper Jake Clarke-Salter were also in the side.

Judo kids strike gold

WESTMINSTER'S Moberly Judo Club went gold-digging on October 5 and showed their prowess by picking up gold medals at the Southern Area Red Belt rumble held at the University of East London SportsDock and at the Senior Kyu and Dan grade open at K2 in Crawley.

One youngster who deserves a special mention is Luca Veras, who has won a string of karate titles at his father's Veras Academy in east London.

But he and his brothers, Luan and Liam, travel all the way from Bethnal Green three times a week to train under Sensei Robert 'Basil' Dawkins at the Moberly Club – and for Luca the switch to judo has paid dividends.

In the Red Belt rumble, Luca displayed his now famous fighting spirit with his third successive gold medal-winning performance in the under-30k category.

Club-mate Maddie Rymer was also in fantastic form, claiming three great wins to secure gold in the under-40k, while Ciaron Edwards had to settle for a silver in the under-60k.

The Senior Kyu and Dan grade open at K2 in Crawley brought together Moberly's youngest and oldest beginners, with Petar Naumov, Sebastian Koenig, Jaheim Khan, Ciaron Edwards and his sister Rianna all performing admirably.

Petar showed great composure and belief as he won gold in the under-81k, defeating club-mate Sebastian who claimed the bronze. Petar then produced magnificent technique to defeat a Dan grade in one of four extra contests in the Dan grade section.

Jaheim also pulled off a victory against a Dan grade contender with a well-executed submission which won him a gold medal in the over-100k, while Rianna Edwards fought with great heart in the under-70k to claim an excellent gold medal.

Sensei Dawkins has been involved in judo for more than 30 years and set up the Moberly club in west London in 1997. He has since established it as one of the best junior clubs in Britain, producing more than 190 national medalists in the last 16 years and 28 black belt promotions.

GO West, young man! Luca Veras with renowned coach and founder Sensei 'Basil' Dawkins

For information about beginners' classes and options for men and women at Moberley Judo Club, visit their website at **www.moberlystars.com**

Where boxing history was made

MY lords, ladies and gentlemen . . .

King Street, Covent Garden, has a significant place in boxing history and the fight fraternity this week paid tribute to a building that has been synonymous with Lords, Ladies, the Aristocracy – and the ordinary man in the street.

Because No.43 King Street was the home of The National Sporting Club from 1891-1929, a venue that took boxing out of the gutter and into plush surroundings.

And the London ex-Boxers Association, in conjunction with Westminster Council, this week installed a green plaque to commemorate the historic significance of the building.

The plaque was unveiled by Lord Hugh Lowther, the Rt. Hon 5th Earl of Lonsdale, whose family were responsible for the introduction of the Lonsdale Belt. Also in attendance was Cllr. Robert Davies, Deputy Leader of Westminster Council, along with descendants of the many famous boxers that boxed there, plus some of the many boxers who have inherited the rules and traditions of the NSC in the 21st century.

The National Sporting Club was responsible for elevating boxing from the thuggery of dingy streets and shady taverns into a noble sport displaying bravery and strength.

By the time The National Sporting Club left King Street in 1929, it had formed the original British Boxing Board of Control, which became renowned throughout the world for promoting high quality contests, licencing boxers, managers and promoters.

Peter Faulkner

FANCY yourself as the next Andy Murray or Laura Robson? Then why not join one of the many local tennis leagues across London? The next one for Hammersmith & Fulham starts this week and runs until December 9.

Don't worry if you miss this round of matches, because there are plenty more coming up, including Round 29: 28 January - 23 March 2016, Round 30: 14 April - 8 June 2016, Round 31: 30 June - 24 August 2016, and Round 32: 15 September - 9 November 2016.

Matches take place on the borough's public courts and are organised by the popular Local Tennis Leagues Ltd, founded and run by Sally Kinnes and Nigel Billen, both of whom have a background in journalism – Nigel was editor of *ACE Tennis Magazine* for nearly five years.

"The idea for a tennis league in a local park began as a way of improving our own game," says Sally. "We set up the first, fledgling league on Highbury Fields in May 2005. It took off. Since then, many hundreds of people have taken part, made friends and improved their game."

Now in its ninth year, the Highbury Fields League led to dozens of others all over the UK. As of June 2015, there are approximately 80 leagues, with new ones being added all the time. The league concept is approved by and affiliated to the LTA, the governing body, and recognised by the Tennis Foundation, a charity set up by the LTA to promote grass-roots tennis. Local Tennis Leagues is registered as a Place to Play with the LTA.

"Our aim is to launch more leagues wherever there is a need, concentrating on public courts where finding opponents can be difficult," Sally added.

Leagues can be also found at Battersea Park, Holland Park, Lincoln's Inn, Paddington Recreation Ground, Regents Park and Barnes.

For details, go online to www.localtennisleagues.com/contact and fill out the form.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Thursday, October 15th, 2015 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

■ COOL IT: Pedro hopes Spain's Euros form will rub off on Chelsea Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Pressure is on Mourinho

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

JOSE Mourinho's stay of execution could last until the end of this weekend.

Should Chelsea's failure to reach the top half of the table continue with a poor result against Aston Villa at The Bridge on Saturday, then more pressure will fall on owner Roman Abramovich to make a change – despite his vote of confidence issued following the humbling 3-1 mauling at home to Southampton in their last game before the international break.

Mourinho's sensational act of brinkmanship, in which he used every media outlet at his disposal to pin the club's hierarchy into a corner to back him, worked incredibly well.

The 58-word statement issued by Abramovich (although he did not put his name to it – it came out as a non-attributed club statement – it was clearly the work of the multi-billionaire) showed that Mourinho had won the public relations battle he had clearly formulated prior to the Southampton debacle.

His 'back me or sack me' stance resulted in the following pronouncement from Abramovich:

"The club wants to make it clear that Jose continues to have our full support.

"As Jose has said himself, results have not been good enough and the team's performances must improve. However, we believe that we have the right manager to turn this season around and that he has the squad with which to do it."

Breathing space

It's what Mourinho wanted, and the two-week gap due to international commitments between the Saints match and Saturday's visit of Villa has given the manager the breathing space he needs to formulate a plan of action.

The flip side is that the club has had an equal amount of time to devise their own plan for possible life without Mourinho.

Should the axe fall on the Portuguese coach, the man earmarked to take on the challenge of managing the Premier League champions is Atletico Madrid's Argentine boss Diego Simeone.

Simeone won't come cheap. He and Mourinho have just signed new deals with their clubs, so Abramovich will have to fork out the best part of £35m to pay off Mourinho and wrestle Simeone from Madrid, where he signed a new five-year contract last March.

Following Villa, Chelsea face tricky away matches at West Ham United, Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League and a visit to Stoke City in the Capital One Cup. Then it's two consecutive home matches, against Liverpool and the return leg with Kiev.

Remaining undefeated in all those games is the number one priority for Mourinho, with a healthy sprinkling of victories the necessary icing on the cake.

But it's fair to say that these past two weeks has left Mourinho little time to work on any training ground routines. With just John Terry, Ramires and Diego Costa of the leading first team squad not on international duty, it's unclear what he will have done in practical terms to arrest the slump.

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

All he can hope for is that his charges return to Cobham from their international matches fit and in some sort of form.

Qualifying for next year's Euro 2016 finals should be the fillip the players needed and the Spanish contingent at SW6 will certainly be happy.

Cesc Fabregas, Cesar Azpilicueta and Pedro can look forward to the Euros after helping Spain thrash lowly Luxembourg 4-0 on Friday. Hopefully Costa will regain his place in the squad to join them.

Eden Hazard was on the scoresheet as Belgium also booked their spot in France with a 4-1 win in Andorra.

Asmir Begovic's Bosnia and Herzegovina halted Wales' good run by winning 2-0 but could not prevent ex-Fulham manager Chris Coleman's team from also qualifying.

Gary Cahill skippered England to a perfunctory 2-0 win over Estonia on Friday. Curiously, England boss Roy Hodgson chose to reveal that Cahill suffers from a back problem which is aggravated by long-haul flights, and gave that as a reason why he released the centre-back from England duty in Lithuania on Monday.

That nugget of media information, made known to the assembled hacks, will not go down well with Cahill or Chelsea, but might partly explain why Mourinho pursued Everton's John Stones so vigorously in the transfer window . . . and why Chelsea will renew their bid to secure the young centre-back in January with an improved £40m offer.

Under fire Nemanja Matic, who will lose his place on Saturday to youngster Rubén Loftus-Cheek, saw his unhappy spell compounded by being sent off in Serbia's 2-1 defeat to Portugal in their final qualifier on Sunday. Fellow defender Branislav Ivanovic was injured in their midweek win over Albania and did not play in Belgrade.

With No.1 choice Thibaut Courtois still on the recovery table, Chelsea has signed an emergency goalkeeper to cover Begovic. Young Jamal Blackman is still not considered ready for first team duty, so Mourinho has successfully argued the need for a new stopper and has snapped up Marco Amelia, a free signing who played for Serie B outfit Perugia last season and is an ex-AC Milan player. The 33-year-old will wear the number 32 shirt and be on the bench for the Villa game on Saturday.

A 5-0 thrashing of Swansea City at Cobham keeps Chelsea under-18s top of their southern section of the Under-18 Premier League. Goals from Mukhtar Ali, Isaac Christie-Davies and Jacob Maddox sent them on their way before Maddox added his second and substitute Malakai Hinckson-Mars finished them off.

Chelsea manager Joe Edwards was naturally a very happy man: "They were well-organised early on and were hard to break down, so we had to persevere and keep moving the ball quickly," he said.

■ Continued on page 27

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Ryan rues slips

FULHAM visit high-flying Middlesbrough on Saturday knowing they can't afford a repeat of the late slip-ups that cost them victory in their last game at Charlton.

Promotion-chasing Boro currently sit second from top of the Championship, two points behind leaders Brighton, and have conceded the joint-lowest number of goals – seven – in the division after 10 matches and only two have gone in at their Riverside ground.

Under Jose Mourinho protege Aitor Karanka, the man the current Chelsea boss appointed as his coaching assistant at Real Madrid, they are a well-organised outfit, very difficult to break down.

On the other hand, leaky Fulham have let in 16 league goals already this season and their 2-2 draw in south London, having led 2-0 with 10 minutes left to play, felt more like a crushing defeat.

Ryan Tunnicliffe admitted the result negated any satisfaction he had from netting his first goal for Whites.

"We should have had the game finished off," Tunnicliffe told the official Fulham website. "We had a few chances and were in control but it was my man (Johnnie Jackson) who scored their first goal, and it got them back in the game with 10 minutes to go.

"And then there was poor defending from the team for the last goal. It's not good enough, we should be seeing those games out and being professional.

"I'm pleased to get on the scoresheet but I'd rather have won. It doesn't really matter that I scored because it comes with a draw when we should have won."

Faced with an otherwise blank weekend due to international fixtures, Fulham eased to a 2-0 win in a behind-closed-doors friendly against Watford at the Hornets' training ground last Friday.

■ RYAN Tunnicliffe's first goal for Fulham was overshadowed by costly slip-ups

Alexander Kačaniklić scored a goal in each half for a Fulham side that included captain Scott Parker, on the comeback trail from injury, plus first-teamers Tunnicliffe, Moussa Dembélé and Tom Cairney.

After facing a tough examination at Middlesbrough, Fulham are back in action at Craven Cottage against Leeds United next Wednesday (21st), before third-placed Reading visit SW6 the following Saturday.

RANGERS CANCEL LEGENDS DINNER – page 27